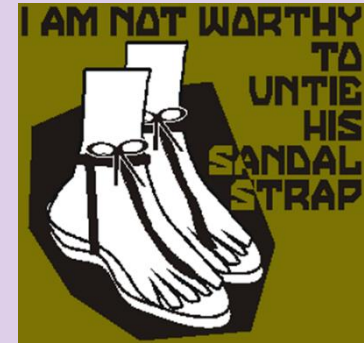


Getting Ready for Sunday!



The Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28



Testimony of John the Baptist



**The Third purple candle
will be lit this Sunday
marking the beginning
of the third week of
preparing for Christmas.**

The third Sunday of is called *Gaudete Sunday*, meaning *Joyful Sunday*.

We celebrate the facts that -

- we are coming closer to Christmas!
- we have made efforts to repent (change) and be better in friendship with our loving Creator.
- We have an opportunity to make a fresh start.



The **pink/rose candle** on the Advent wreath is lit this week along with the two **purple/violet candles**.

**There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all
might believe through him. He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.**



**God sent John the Baptist, to
show the way to Jesus.**

**Each one of us has also been sent
to show others where Jesus may
be found!**

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him:

and did not deny it:

Who are you?

**He confessed
but confessed, ‘**

I am not the Messiah.



**We sometimes
forget that we
can depend on
God, the source
of all goodness
and power.**

And they asked him, 'He said, ' 'He answered, '

I am not.

What then? Are you Elijah?

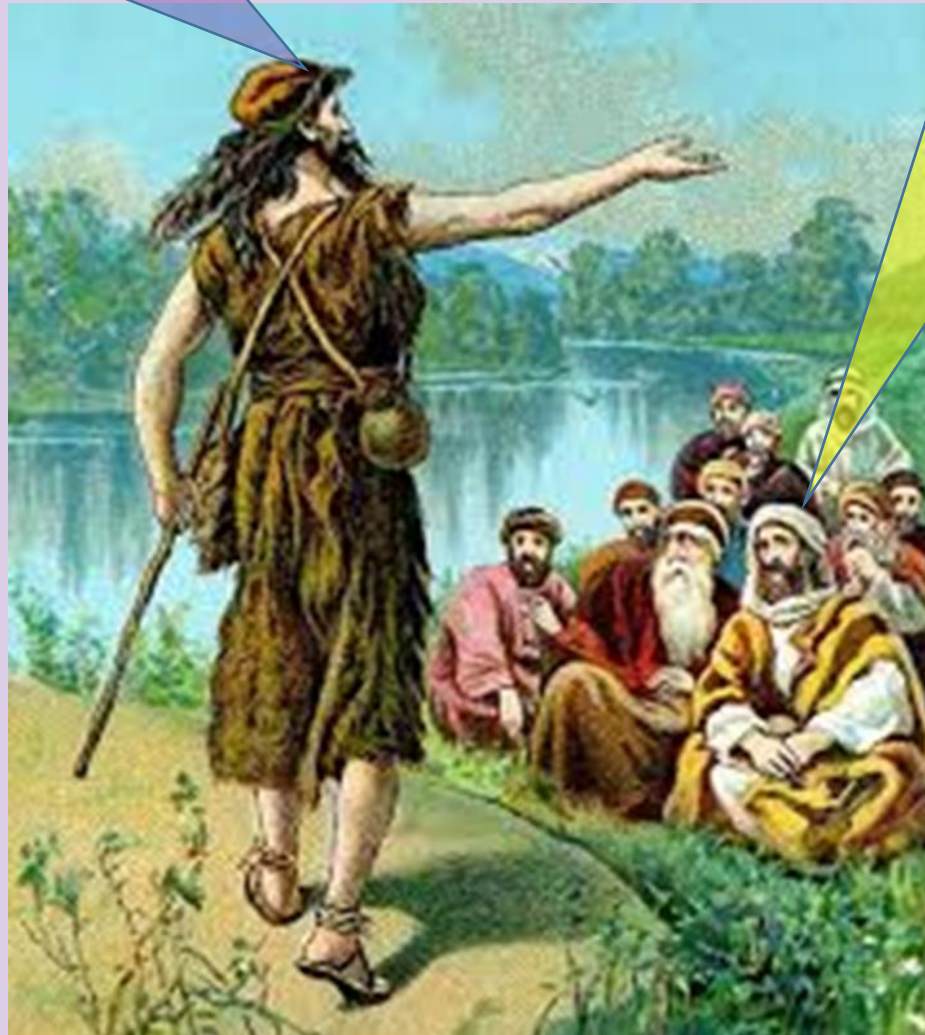
No.

Are you the prophet?



I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ,as the prophet Isaiah said.

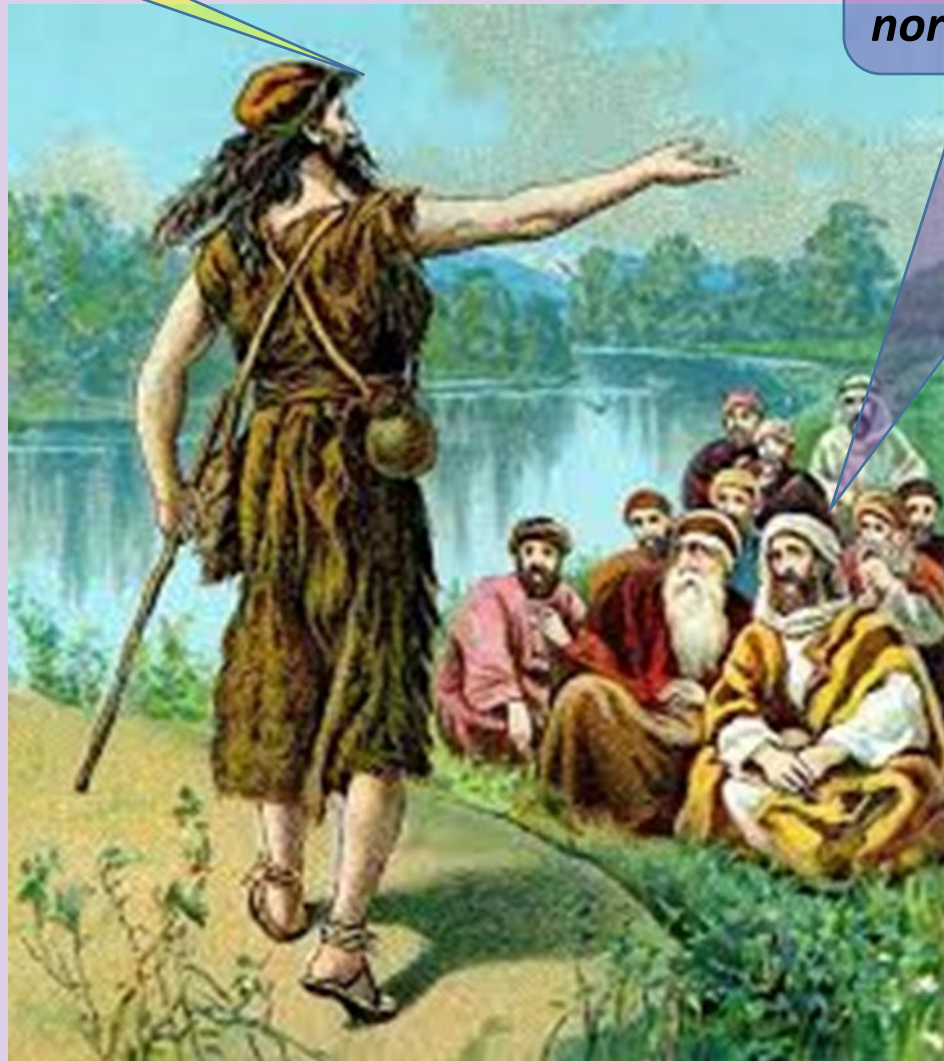
Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?



Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

*I baptise
with water.*

*Why then are you baptising if
you are neither the Messiah,
nor Elijah, nor the prophet?*



Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'



This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

Sunday 14 December: Third Sunday of Advent

We celebrate the third week of Advent in the spirit of Joy.

This is marked by lighting the pink candle in the Advent wreath.

We are past the halfway mark in our preparation for Christmas on the third Sunday!

Draw a picture of a large pink candle.



How are you going to share the gift of joy with your friends and family this week?

Draw a picture/or write the names of the people with whom you will share the gift of Joy.



- **Christ, in both His humility and greatness is right among us and in us today!**
- **Where is Jesus in your heart, your life, your neighbourhood?**
- **Do our actions and attitudes lead people to God or away from God?**

Read **John 1:6-8, 19-28** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 1:6-8, 19-28

1 John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?

2 John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?

3 John was ‘the voice of one crying out in the wilderness’ – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God’s grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

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Consider



How can you share joy this week?

Praying to Jesus



**Pray for the grace to know joy in the
message of God's love for you!**

