

GOSPEL SUMMARY: John 1:6-8, 19-28



Today's gospel reading is about the importance of giving witness. The role of John the Baptist was to testify to the light that is Christ. John the Baptist said he was not the Messiah. His baptism and his preaching were to prepare for the Messiah, one far greater than John. It is the coming of the Messiah that the entire world awaits, and we learn about who the Messiah is from all of today's readings. Waiting requires patience on our part, and becoming prepared for the one who is coming. How are we preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming this Christmas as the Messiah? What kindness can we give to others this week to show that we are ready?

Pray to the Spirit to know what your work in the world is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GOSPEL:

What does John say that he is not? What does John say that he is? Do you think John is clear about what his work is? Why does John baptize? How can we prepare for the one who is coming?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: When have you found your voice and stood up for the truth?

MORE THAN DISCIPLES:

Each of today's four scriptural roles—disciple, prophet, apostle, herald—forms a facet of our life in Christ as we live it day by day. Isaiah tells us that a prophet is anointed, as we were anointed at our baptism in water and the Spirit, to bring glad tidings and to promote God's reign of healing, justice, and peace. An apostle, like Paul, is one who is "sent." Each of us, in his or her own way, is sent by Christ to be a voice of rejoicing, to encourage prophetic voices in the world, and to make sure that the work of the Spirit thrives. John the Baptist shows us the job of the herald, making the Lord's way straight, announcing the coming of the Light of the world. Today we also hear from Mary, model disciple. Her song, the Magnificat, shows us the world we must believe in and work for: one in which God is praised, where God's favor is bestowed on the humble, where the hungry are filled and the rich are sent away empty, a world that continues to know and rejoice in the mercy of God that lasts for all ages. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Weekly Mass Schedule and Intentions:

SAT	12/13	5:00 PM	For the Parishioners
SUN	12/14	8:30 AM	For the Parishioners
SUN	12/14	11:00 AM	+Lorenzo & Giovanna Abbate
SUN	12/14	12:30 PM	(SI) The Children and Grandchildren of Luis and Martha Hernandez
MON	12/15	NO MASS	
TUE	12/16	7:30 AM	For the Parishioners
TUE	12/16	7:00PM	Healing Mass
WED	12/17	7:30 AM	For the Parishioners
THU	12/18	7:30 AM	For the Parishioners
FRI	12/19	7:30 AM	For the Parishioners
THUR	12/18	7:00 PM	ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



- OFFERING REPORT:** Our weekly offering from **Dec. 7, 2014** was **\$5,833.68** Thank you for your love and support.
- MASS INTENTION CARDS:** Stop by the Parish Office and schedule a Mass Intention and receive a card to send to the intended or to the family of the intended notifying them of this special gift of prayer.
- SUPPORT RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES:** "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry", writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders! Special envelopes are available in the pews.
- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Sign-ups are taking place now for the Children's Christmas Party being held on Sun, **Dec 21 @ 4:00p.m.** in Keenan Hall. The sign-up sheet can be found in the vestibule.

- BIBLE STUDY:** There will not be meetings on Dec 24 and Dec 31.
- HISPANIC BREAKFAST:** Gather in Keenan Hall for food and fellowship as the Hispanic Community serve up a delicious breakfast after all Masses, Sun., Dec. 14.
- After-Abortion Healing Retreat:** Jan. 9-11,2015. Held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Confidentiality maintained. For more information call Rosemary, 858-581-3022.



**Thurs, Dec 18
7:00PM**

The basic requirement for a good confession is to have the intention of returning to God with your whole heart, like the "prodigal son," and to acknowledge your sins with true sorrow before the priest. The Gospels show us the importance of the forgiveness of our sins. The lives of the saints prove that a person who grows in holiness has a stronger sense of sin, sorrow for sins and a need for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. No wonder the saints are filled with joy! They have realized the key to handing over their burdens to Christ through the Sacrament of Confession, so they can be free to serve Him with love and energy.

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' (John 20:21-23).

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.



Stock Donations as Year-End Charitable Giving

Have you considered donating appreciated stock from your investment portfolio instead of cash to St. Pius X? Your tax benefits from the donation can be increased and allow for maximum stewardship for some individuals. Gifts of stock held more than one year offer two unique advantages: 1) A gift of stock to the church avoids capital gains tax for you on the increase in the value of the stock 2) You receive a deduction for the full market value of the stock at the time of the gift to the church. Stock donation forms can be found in the vestibule and on the San Diego Diocese Website <http://www.diocese-sdiego.org/>



**Saturday, Dec 20
@ 6:00PM in Keenan Hall**

**CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUN, DEC 21**

**@
4:00PM**



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
December 24 10:00PM Midnight Mass
December 25 9:00AM Children's Mass
December 25 11:00AM Mass (Spanish)