

Year B - Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:19-28

There is one coming after me



The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and temple helpers to ask John who he was.

He told them plainly, "I am not the Messiah."

Then when they asked him if he were Elijah, he said, "No, I am not!"

And when they asked if he were the Prophet, he also said "No!"

Finally, they said, "Who are you then? We have to give an answer to the ones who sent us. Tell us who you are!"

John answered in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "I am only someone shouting in the desert, 'Get the road ready for the Lord!'"

Some Pharisees had also been sent to John. They asked him, "Why are you baptising people, if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John told them, "I use water to baptise people. But here with you is someone you don't know. Even though I came first, I am not good enough to untie his sandals."

John said this as he was baptising east of the Jordan River in Bethany.



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Rejoice in the Lord always!



Message

This week John the Baptist shows us that he is sure of his mission. The third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice' in Latin. The Catholic Church uses the colour rose/pink to indicate a joyful feast.

This week we light the rose/pink candle and this one has a special meaning - JOY

- John the Baptist knows that he is not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet. He tells the priests and temple helpers sent by the Jewish leaders that he has been sent to "get the road ready for the Lord."
- Like John, we are here on mission. What is your mission? How are you getting the road ready for the Lord.
- Is it time to start a new Advent tradition in your parish? Did you know that in many countries of the world, including Vatican City, the Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Bambinelli (Baby Jesus) Sunday. The blessing of baby Jesus figurines is an event that takes place at the Vatican each year. Children bring the baby Jesus figure from their family nativity scene to St. Peter's Square for a special papal blessing.
- The tradition was begun by Pope Paul VI in 1969. The Holy Father blesses all the statues and figurines of Baby Jesus held up by the children in the crowd. The children then place them under their Christmas trees, waiting for Christmas Eve when the Bambinelli can be placed in the manger to mark the birth of the Baby Jesus.

Discussion questions

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand. Also check if they are any words or phrases that stood out for them
- I wonder what it means to have a mission
- I wonder how you can be a sign of JOY for others in the coming week.

