



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO
 CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
 Module 14 Family Catechesis
 Second Sunday of Advent Year B DEC 6 2020
 Mark 1:1-8 Prepare the way of the Lord

1. INTRODUCTION

Talk about preparations needed for the visit of someone special in the family or in the neighborhood

If a very important person will visit us, what preparations do we need to do?

The Sunday Gospel for the second week of Advent tells us to make some preparations for the coming of someone special—Jesus. Let us see what John the Baptist encourages us to do.

(Let us pause for a while)



OPENING PRAYER

(Light the first candle of the Advent wreath placed beside the Bible at the altar)

Father, make our hearts open to listen to your Word attentively so that we can prepare the way for Jesus. Help us to clear the path in our heart. Show us the distractions that block us to hear your voice.

Lord, we await your coming as we enter into the Second Week of Advent. Help us always to seek your presence. We offer you all the good things we do for we know we can only be clean because of your love and mercy. Show us today our need to be cleansed from our sins. Give us the strength to ask for forgiveness to change our ways. Amen

Glory Be



PHASE ONE
 REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story

A moment of prayerful silence

We will not be able to understand Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word



**A reading from the
 Gospel of Mark 1:1-8**

This is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 It is written in the book of Isaiah, the prophet, “I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way. 3 Let the people hear the voice calling in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, level his paths.” 4 So John began to baptize in the desert; he preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 All Judea and all the

people from the city of Jerusalem went out to John to confess their sins, and to be baptized by him in the river Jordan. 6 John was clothed in camel’s hair and wore a leather garment around his waist. His food was locusts and honey. 7 He preached to the people, saying, “After me comes one who is more powerful than I am; 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

What word struck you from the Gospel reading?
 How do you feel about it?

A voice cries “**Prepare the way of the Lord, level his paths.** What does it mean to you?
 (leave some moments for reflections)

1.3 Text in Context

1. What is the first line from the Gospel of Mark?

Mark was the first Gospel writer. The whole of Mark’s gospel consists of 16 chapters whose first line of chapter 1 says *This is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

This points out to a bigger picture of who Jesus is, the Son of God, and how he will make it happen with his words and actions. The tone of this line captures the joy of announcing something that gives hope to the weary hearts of the first hearers of the Gospel.

1. What is the Good news announced?

“I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way. Let the people hear the voice calling in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, level his paths

Prophet Isaiah wrote this part of the book at the return of the Jewish people to their homeland after many years of exile in Babylon. He boldly told the people to come back to the One True God and put their trust in him who is more powerful than those who ruled them. In the midst of godless nations. They looked forward to the coming of a Savior (or Messiah- the Anointed One), who could free them from powerful rulers and power within themselves, not with mighty hands but with humble spirit.

2. Who is John the Baptist?

John the Baptist’s father was Zechariah, to whom angel Gabriel first appeared to announce John’s birth. Elizabeth, John’s mother, became pregnant with John six months before Mary became pregnant with Jesus (Luke 1:36). He lived a very simple life in the desert, where he listened to the voice of the Lord, whose coming he prepared.

3. In what way are Isaiah and John similar?

Both of them are prophets. A prophet delivers God’s message especially when people are getting away from the ways of God. At their own particular time, they both preached to prepare the way of the Lord’s coming.

4. How did John prepare the way of the Lord?

by preaching in the wilderness (desert), where he attracted great crowds,

by calling people to repentance,
by baptizing, and
by heralding the one who was to come.

**PHASE II REFLECT the Story
of the Church
(Teachings of the Church)**



What is the good news?

Right at the beginning of Mark's Gospel, he is telling us the Good News! God is present in our midst and he is alive to save us. What is this Good news repeated down the centuries?

"God's greatest blessing is Jesus Christ. This is the great gift of God, His Son. It is a blessing for all humanity; it is a blessing that has saved us all. He is the Eternal Word with which the Father blessed us 'while we were yet sinners': the Word made flesh and offered for us on the cross," (Pope Francis)

What is sin

God knows who we are, not perfect at all, but have the capacity to avoid, and get away from sinful ways for we are created in God's image and likeness. Sin is an offense against God: *"Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight."* Sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it. (CCC [1850](#))

Sin makes our hearts hard. We do things without control of self and relationship with others as if everything we do is right and acceptable, without shame before God.

Sin makes us blind to the love that God offers us and the love we can give to others. We are afraid to love and be loved. We are paralyzed within our own self-love.

Is there hope for a sinner?

There is no sin that can completely erase the image of Christ present in each one of us,"

"Sin can disfigure it, but not remove it from God's mercy. A sinner can remain in error for a long time, but God is patient till the end, hoping that the sinner's heart will eventually open and change,"

Pope Francis Dec 2, 2020

How do we prepare for the coming of the Lord?

From the time of Isaiah to the time of John the Baptist and even now we hear the same voice saying. *Prepare the way of the Lord, level his paths.* What does it mean for us ?

We need to repent. We need to examine ourselves (conscience) on how we have offended God and how we have turned away from his love.

Let us look into ourselves.

How do I make smooth paths for the Lord?

What are the paths or roads within me that have to be straightened?

Is there a way for me to have the Sacrament of Confession?

(leave some moments for reflection)

**PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal
faith /community faith story**

Make a brief examination of conscience with an honest heart.

Let us place ourselves in the presence of God
Say to the Lord, you can make me clean." (Mt 8:2) •
What have I done right? Thank God for this.
What have I done wrong? What could I have done better?
Did I often consider that God is my Father?
Did I offer him my work?
Did I neglect my duties? (as a parent, or as a child, as a spouse, as a sibling, or friend)
Did I make good use of my time?
Did I pray today, slowly and with attention?
Did I try to make life pleasant for other people? Did I criticize anyone?
Was I forgiving?
Did I allow myself to be carried away by acts not pleasing to God?

<https://svdprcia.files.wordpress.com>

(the individual participant can may do this as the last thing to do every night)



CLOSING PRAYER

Make an act of contrition, sorrowfully asking for the Lord's pardon:

Act of Contritions

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

Pray three Hail Mary, asking for purity of heart

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

"The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person.... As the Church is charged with the task of the new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed again and again with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action.... In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy" (Misericordiae Vultus 12).

CCC 1853 Sins can be distinguished according to their objects, as can every human act; or according to the virtues they oppose, by excess or defect; or according to the commandments they violate. They can also be classed according to whether they concern God, neighbor, or oneself; they can be divided into spiritual and carnal sins, or again as sins in thought, word, deed, or omission. The root of sin is in the heart of man, in his free will, according to the teaching of the Lord: "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man."¹ But in the heart also resides charity, the source of the good and pure works, which sin wounds.