

## Gospel Reflection

The Church has just celebrated two great Marian feasts: the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is appropriate in this Advent time that we look to Mary's great song, the Magnificat, as a lens for today's readings, and to her life as the first of faithful disciples. In her canticle, Mary describes a world similar to the one for which Isaiah tells us the Spirit anoints the prophet: where the mighty arm of God scatters the proud and lifts up the lowly, where the hungry are filled with good things and the rich are sent away empty. This world is upside down from the one most of us experience. But if we are to follow our call to be disciples of Jesus, as Mary did, we must be committed to believing in and proclaiming a world like this.

Today we hear from John's Gospel, which serves as the first of a number of interjections during this year of the proclamation of Mark's Gospel. (This is because Mark's is the shortest of the Gospels.) John the Baptist once again speaks of his role as the forerunner, the herald of the light. He himself is not the light, but the one who "makes straight" the way before the Lord. John is describing our own vocation, the one given to us when we were baptized in water and the Spirit. We proclaim the coming of the light by living out our own Spirit-anointing to bring glad tidings to the poor, to strive for the world God desires, the one described by Isaiah. As Paul tells us today, it is through our witness that we do not despise the prophetic utterances of John, Mary, and Isaiah, and that we do not quench the Spirit. As we prepare for the coming of the light in whatever vocation God has anointed us for, we must live as Paul insists: in continual prayer, and ever rejoicing!

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

B T L L P L X P R V A R M  
F O E G H L E N H J U W C  
X X V Z T Z N H V X X B Z  
I K I L I G E O W E E N Z  
O A T E S T I F Y A W I S  
L M E L Z C P U A D P I M  
C L S I E I D A J U R B H  
Z O W J O H N E B E E O T  
L G E A O V V G S K P N L  
L I G H T K Z R O E A X V  
X K I B F E X O C C R Z B  
A L F Y C P R O P H E T I  
J B B P T U O G N I Y R C

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

BAPTIZE	WAY	DESERT
ELIJAH	JOHN	LEVITES
LIGHT	LORD	PREPARE
PROPHET	RECOGNIZE	TESTIFY
VOICE	WATER	CRYING OUT

## Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The Third Sunday of Advent  
12/14/2008*

*John 1:6-8, 19-28  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.  
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## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

### ***The Gospel according to John***

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to **testify** to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" He said to them, "I am not." "Are you **the Prophet?**" He answered, "No."

So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am ***the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord***, as Isaiah the Prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***



### **Gospel Glossary**

**Testify:** This passage introduces the theme of testimony, which appears frequently in this Gospel.

**the Prophet:** probably refers to Moses.

***voice of one crying out in the desert.*** This passage echoes *Isaiah 40:3*, which says "A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord."

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- How does what I do and say testify to the presence of Christ?
- In what area of my life has my relationship with Christ grown and matured?
- In what ways could my relationship with Christ be improved or enriched?

## Closing Prayer

Lord God,

May we, your people who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

**The Third Sunday of Advent**