



**READING GOD'S WORD**  
**Daily Mass Readings**  
**Church Year C 2022**



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## INTRODUCTION

What began primarily as an aid to lectors preparing for Mass has now become a regular part of the daily prayer of Catholics who know the value of praying with Scripture. *Reading God's Word* helps us to follow the daily worship of the Church in a simple and convenient form.

*Reading God's Word* has the exact passages for daily Mass for an entire year, and they are available whenever you want them. More than simply convenient, *Reading God's Word* offers a way to respond to God's invitation to share his life. As the world Synod of Bishops on the "Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church" noted in October 2008, Scripture represents God's desire to speak directly to us. When we take up the texts in *Reading God's Word*, we enter into a relationship with God in a profound way, and these living words begin to take root in our lives and bear fruit.

True, some of the words are so familiar as to be commonplace after years of hearing them proclaimed at Mass. At the same time, new circumstances in our lives as well as the action of grace can give new meaning to a text that we have heard since childhood. When we hear or read these words intently, we discover that as St. Paul has taught us (Romans 15:4), everything written in Scripture is written as instruction for our benefit.

May *Reading God's Word* richly benefit you all during the coming year.

Editorial Staff

Creative Communications for the Parish

# LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

## 2021

First Sunday of Advent .....	Nov. 28
Immaculate Conception ( <i>holy day of obligation</i> ) .....	Wed., Dec. 8
Christmas ( <i>holy day of obligation</i> ) .....	Sat., Dec. 25
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph .....	Sun., Dec. 26

## 2022

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God ( <i>NOT a holy day of obligation</i> ) .....	Sat., Jan. 1
Epiphany .....	Sun., Jan. 2
The Baptism of the Lord .....	Sun., Jan. 9
The Presentation of the Lord .....	Wed., Feb. 2
Ash Wednesday .....	Mar. 2
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary .....	Sat., Mar. 19
The Annunciation of the Lord .....	Fri., Mar. 25
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord .....	Apr. 10
Holy Thursday .....	Apr. 14
Good Friday .....	Apr. 15
Holy Saturday .....	Apr. 16
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord .....	Apr. 17
Ascension ( <i>holy day of obligation</i> ) .....	Thu., May 26 or Sun., May 29
Pentecost Sunday .....	June 5
The Most Holy Trinity .....	Sun., June 12
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ .....	Sun., June 19
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist .....	Thu., June 23
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus .....	Fri., June 24
St. Peter and St. Paul .....	Wed., June 29
The Transfiguration of the Lord .....	Sat., Aug. 6
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary ( <i>NOT a holy day of obligation</i> ) .....	Mon., Aug. 15
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross .....	Wed., Sept. 14
All Saints ( <i>holy day of obligation</i> ) .....	Tues., Nov. 1
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) .....	Wed., Nov. 2
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome .....	Wed., Nov. 9
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe .....	Sun., Nov. 20
First Sunday of Advent .....	Nov. 27

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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**† Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*I will raise up for David a just shoot.*

**T**he days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will fulfill the promise  
I made to the house of Israel and Judah.  
In those days, in that time,  
I will raise up for David a just shoot;  
he shall do what is right and just in the land.  
In those days Judah shall be safe  
and Jerusalem shall dwell secure;  
this is what they shall call her:  
“The LORD our justice.” †

*Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14*

**R. (1b) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior,  
and for you I wait all the day. **R.**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
and teaches the humble his way. **R.**

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy  
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.  
The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him,  
and his covenant, for their instruction. **R.**

**† 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2**

*May the Lord strengthen your hearts at the coming of our Lord Jesus.*

**B**rothers and sisters:  
May the Lord make you increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all,  
just as we have for you,  
so as to strengthen your hearts,  
to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters,  
we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that,  
as you received from us

how you should conduct yourselves to please God  
—and as you are conducting yourselves—  
you do so even more.

For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord  
Jesus. †

*Psalm 85:8*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Show us, Lord, your love;  
and grant us your salvation. **R.**

† **Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

*Your redemption is at hand.*

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,  
and on earth nations will be in dismay,  
perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will die of fright

in anticipation of what is coming upon the world,  
for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Son of Man

coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

But when these signs begin to happen,  
stand erect and raise your heads  
because your redemption is at hand.

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy  
from carousing and drunkenness  
and the anxieties of daily life,  
and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.

For that day will assault everyone  
who lives on the face of the earth.

Be vigilant at all times

and pray that you have the strength  
to escape the tribulations that are imminent  
and to stand before the Son of Man.” †

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

**ADVENT WEEKDAY**

† **Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The LORD will gather all nations into  
the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.*

**T**his is what Isaiah, son of Amoz,  
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come,  
 The mountain of the LORD's house  
 shall be established as the highest mountain  
 and raised above the hills.  
 All nations shall stream toward it;  
 many peoples shall come and say:  
 "Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain,  
 to the house of the God of Jacob,  
 That he may instruct us in his ways,  
 and we may walk in his paths."  
 For from Zion shall go forth instruction,  
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
 He shall judge between the nations,  
 and impose terms on many peoples.  
 They shall beat their swords into plowshares  
 and their spears into pruning hooks;  
 One nation shall not raise the sword against another,  
 nor shall they train for war again.

O house of Jacob, come,  
 let us walk in the light of the LORD! †

*Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9*

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
 "We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot  
 within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Jerusalem, built as a city  
 with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,  
 the tribes of the LORD. **R.**

According to the decree for Israel,  
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

In it are set up judgment seats,  
 seats for the house of David. **R.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
 May those who love you prosper!

May peace be within your walls,  
 prosperity in your buildings. **R.**

Because of my relatives and friends  
 I will say, "Peace be within you!"

Because of the house of the LORD, our God,  
 I will pray for your good. **R.**

*See Psalm 80:4*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Come and save us, LORD our God;  
let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. **R.**

**† Matthew 8:5-11**

*Many will come from the east and  
the west into the Kingdom of heaven.*

**W**hen Jesus entered Capernaum,  
a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying,  
“Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.”  
He said to him, “I will come and cure him.”  
The centurion said in reply,  
“Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof;  
only say the word and my servant will be healed.  
For I too am a man subject to authority,  
with soldiers subject to me.  
And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes;  
and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes;  
and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”  
When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following  
him,  
“Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.  
I say to you, many will come from the east and the west,  
and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob  
at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven.” †

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

**ST. ANDREW**

**† Romans 10:9-18**

*Thus faith comes from what is heard,  
and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.*

**B**rothers and sisters:  
If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord  
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,  
you will be saved.  
For one believes with the heart and so is justified,  
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.  
The Scripture says,  
*No one who believes in him will be put to shame.*  
There is no distinction between Jew and Greek;  
the same Lord is Lord of all,  
enriching all who call upon him.  
*For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?  
And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?  
And how can they hear without someone to preach?  
And how can people preach unless they are sent?  
As it is written,

*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!*  
But not everyone has heeded the good news;  
for Isaiah says, *Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?*  
Thus faith comes from what is heard,  
and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.  
But I ask, did they not hear?  
Certainly they did; for

*Their voice has gone forth to all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world. †*

*Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11*

**R. (10) The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.**

*or*

(John 6:63) **Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple. **R.**  
The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
The command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye. **R.**  
The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
The ordinances of the LORD are true,  
all of them just. **R.**  
They are more precious than gold,  
than a heap of purest gold;  
Sweeter also than syrup  
or honey from the comb. **R.**

*Matthew 4:19*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Come after me, says the Lord,  
and I will make you fishers of men. **R.**



**† Matthew 4:18-22**

*Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

**A**s Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them,

“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers,

James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. †

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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1**

**ADVENT WEEKDAY**

**† Isaiah 25:6-10a**

*The LORD invites us to his feast and  
will wipe away the tears from all faces.*

**O**n this mountain the LORD of hosts  
will provide for all peoples  
A feast of rich food and choice wines,  
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.  
On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.  
The Lord GOD will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;  
The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:  
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!  
This is the LORD for whom we looked;  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”  
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain. †

*Psalm 23:1b-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6*

**R. (6cd) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul. **R.**  
He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage. **R.**  
You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. **R.**  
Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come. **R.**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, the Lord comes to save his people;  
blessed are those prepared to meet him. **R.**

**† Matthew 15:29-37**

*Jesus heals many and multiplies the bread.*

**A**t that time:

Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee,  
went up on the mountain, and sat down there.

Great crowds came to him,  
having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute,  
and many others.

They placed them at his feet, and he cured them.

The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking,  
the deformed made whole,  
the lame walking,  
and the blind able to see,  
and they glorified the God of Israel.

Jesus summoned his disciples and said,  
“My heart is moved with pity for the crowd,  
for they have been with me now for three days  
and have nothing to eat.

I do not want to send them away hungry,  
for fear they may collapse on the way.”

The disciples said to him,  
“Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place  
to satisfy such a crowd?”

Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?”

“Seven,” they replied, “and a few fish.”

He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground.

Then he took the seven loaves and the fish,  
gave thanks, broke the loaves,  
and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the  
crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied.

They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full. †

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2**

**ADVENT WEEKDAY**

**† Isaiah 26:1-6**

*Let in a nation that is just, one that keeps faith.*

**O**n that day they will sing this song in the land of Judah:

“A strong city have we;  
he sets up walls and ramparts to protect us.

Open up the gates  
to let in a nation that is just,  
one that keeps faith.

A nation of firm purpose you keep in peace;  
in peace, for its trust in you.”

Trust in the LORD forever!

For the LORD is an eternal Rock.  
He humbles those in high places,  
and the lofty city he brings down;  
He tumbles it to the ground,  
levels it with the dust.

It is trampled underfoot by the needy,  
by the footsteps of the poor. †

*Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a*

**R. (26a) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

*(or Alleluia.)*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in princes. **R.**

Open to me the gates of justice;

I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

This gate is the LORD's;  
the just shall enter it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and have been my savior. **R.**

O LORD, grant salvation!

O LORD, grant prosperity!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. **R.**

*Isaiah 55:6*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call him while he is near. **R.**

**† Matthew 7:21, 24-27**

*Whoever does the will of my Father will enter the Kingdom of heaven.*

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,  
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them  
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.  
And everyone who listens to these words of mine

but does not act on them  
will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
And it collapsed and was completely ruined.” †

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3**

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

**† Isaiah 29:17-24**

*On that day, the eyes of the blind shall see.*

**T**hus says the Lord GOD:

But a very little while,  
and Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard,  
and the orchard be regarded as a forest!

On that day the deaf shall hear  
the words of a book;

And out of gloom and darkness,  
the eyes of the blind shall see.

The lowly will ever find joy in the LORD,  
and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

For the tyrant will be no more  
and the arrogant will have gone;

All who are alert to do evil will be cut off,  
those whose mere word condemns a man,

Who ensnare his defender at the gate,  
and leave the just man with an empty claim.

Therefore thus says the LORD,  
the God of the house of Jacob,  
who redeemed Abraham:  
Now Jacob shall have nothing to be ashamed of,  
nor shall his face grow pale.  
When his children see  
the work of my hands in his midst,  
They shall keep my name holy;  
they shall reverence the Holy One of Jacob,  
and be in awe of the God of Israel.  
Those who err in spirit shall acquire understanding,  
and those who find fault shall receive instruction. †

*Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14*

**R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?  
The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid? **R.**  
One thing I ask of the LORD;  
this I seek:  
To dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD  
and contemplate his temple. **R.**  
I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **R.**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, our Lord shall come with power;  
he will enlighten the eyes of his servants. **R.**

**† Matthew 9:27-31**

*Believing in Jesus, two who were blind are cured.*

**A**s Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out,  
“Son of David, have pity on us!”  
When he entered the house,  
the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them,  
“Do you believe that I can do this?”  
“Yes, Lord,” they said to him.  
Then he touched their eyes and said,  
“Let it be done for you according to your faith.”  
And their eyes were opened.

Jesus warned them sternly,

“See that no one knows about this.”

But they went out and spread word of him through all that land. †

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**  
**ADVENT WEEKDAY, ST. JOHN DAMASCENE**

*† Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26*

*The Merciful One will show you mercy when you cry out.*

**T**hus says the Lord GOD,  
the Holy One of Israel:

O people of Zion, who dwell in Jerusalem,  
no more will you weep;

He will be gracious to you when you cry out,  
as soon as he hears he will answer you.

The Lord will give you the bread you need  
and the water for which you thirst.

No longer will your Teacher hide himself,  
but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher,

While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears:

“This is the way; walk in it,”

when you would turn to the right or to the left.

He will give rain for the seed  
that you sow in the ground,

And the wheat that the soil produces  
will be rich and abundant.

On that day your flock will be given pasture  
and the lamb will graze in spacious meadows;

The oxen and the asses that till the ground  
will eat silage tossed to them  
with shovel and pitchfork.

Upon every high mountain and lofty hill  
there will be streams of running water.

On the day of the great slaughter,  
when the towers fall,

The light of the moon will be like that of the sun  
and the light of the sun will be seven times greater  
like the light of seven days.

On the day the LORD binds up the wounds of his people,  
he will heal the bruises left by his blows. †

*Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6*

**R.** (see Isaiah 30:18d) **Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**

Praise the LORD, for he is good;

    sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;

    it is fitting to praise him.

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;

    the dispersed of Israel he gathers. **R.**

He heals the brokenhearted

    and binds up their wounds.

He tells the number of the stars;

    he calls each by name. **R.**

Great is our LORD and mighty in power:

    to his wisdom there is no limit.

The LORD sustains the lowly;

    the wicked he casts to the ground. **R.**

*Isaiah 33:22*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The LORD is our Judge, our Lawgiver, our King;

he it is who will save us. **R.**

*† Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8*

*At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them.*

**J**esus went around to all the towns and villages,  
teaching in their synagogues,  
proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,  
and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them  
because they were troubled and abandoned,  
like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,

    “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;

    so ask the master of the harvest

    to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Then he summoned his Twelve disciples

    and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out  
    and to cure every disease and every illness.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus,

    “Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

As you go, make this proclamation: ‘The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

Cure the sick, raise the dead,

    cleanse lepers, drive out demons.

Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.” †



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

† *Baruch 5:1-9*

*Jerusalem, God will show your splendor.*

**J**erusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery;  
put on the splendor of glory from God forever:  
wrapped in the cloak of justice from God,  
bear on your head the mitre  
that displays the glory of the eternal name.  
For God will show all the earth your splendor:  
you will be named by God forever  
the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;  
look to the east and see your children  
gathered from the east and the west  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that they are remembered by God.  
Led away on foot by their enemies they left you:  
but God will bring them back to you  
borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.  
For God has commanded  
that every lofty mountain be made low,  
and that the age-old depths and gorges  
be filled to level ground,  
that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.  
The forests and every fragrant kind of tree  
have overshadowed Israel at God's command;  
for God is leading Israel in joy  
by the light of his glory,  
with his mercy and justice for company. †

*Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6*

**R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**  
When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,  
we were like men dreaming.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with rejoicing. **R.**  
Then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."  
The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad indeed. **R.**  
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the torrents in the southern desert.

Those who sow in tears  
shall reap rejoicing. **R.**  
Although they go forth weeping,  
carrying the seed to be sown,  
They shall come back rejoicing,  
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

† **Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**

*Show yourselves pure and blameless for the day of Christ.*

**B**rothers and sisters:

I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you,  
because of your partnership for the gospel  
from the first day until now.

I am confident of this,  
that the one who began a good work in you  
will continue to complete it  
until the day of Christ Jesus.

God is my witness,  
how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer:  
that your love may increase ever more and more  
in knowledge and every kind of perception,  
to discern what is of value,  
so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,  
filled with the fruit of righteousness  
that comes through Jesus Christ  
for the glory and praise of God. †

*Luke 3:4, 6*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **R.**

† **Luke 3:1-6**

*All flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

**I**n the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,  
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,  
and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee,  
and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region  
of Ituraea and Trachonitis,  
and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,  
during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,  
the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.  
John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:  
*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.  
Every valley shall be filled  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.  
The winding roads shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."* †

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
**ADVENT WEEKDAY, ST. NICHOLAS**

**† Isaiah 35:1-10**

*God himself will come and save you.*

**T**he desert and the parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
They will bloom with abundant flowers,  
and rejoice with joyful song.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
They will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.  
Strengthen the hands that are feeble,  
make firm the knees that are weak,  
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:  
Be strong, fear not!  
Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;  
With divine recompense  
he comes to save you.  
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,  
the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
Then will the lame leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the mute will sing.  
  
Streams will burst forth in the desert,  
and rivers in the steppe.  
The burning sands will become pools,  
and the thirsty ground, springs of water;  
The abode where jackals lurk  
will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus.  
A highway will be there,  
called the holy way;