**[Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)](https://justmehomely.wordpress.com/2011/11/26/second-sunday-of-advent-year-b/)**

Is 40:1-5,9-11; 2Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**A patient called up her doctor. Something is wrong with her; she needed emergency treatment in her house.**

**The doctor got a taxi and set out to his patient’s house. Immediately he checked her up. “You have a serious case of hypertension; your blood pressure is very high. Unless you do something drastic about your condition, you will die,” the doctor said. “Can you take this medicine regularly?” “I can’t,” was the patient’s reply. “I’m a busy person. I have many other things to do.”**

**Can you refrain from eating fatty foods and have a low-salt diet?” the doctor asked her again. “I can’t because they are my favorite. And how can I have appetite for food lacking in salt?”**

**“Can you at least do some exercises?” you really need to lessen your weight and improve your blood circulation,” the doctor said. “I can’t because I just want to relax, eat and sleep.”**

**“Then there is one thing I can do,” the doctor said. “What is that?” asked the patient. “I will contact funeral parlor and advise its agents that you will be dead any day from now.**

**Just like this doctor who gave an advice to his patient on what to do, today’s gospel talks about Saint John the Baptist who proclaims baptism of repentance which leads to the forgiveness of sins. Saint John the Baptist has a message to tell us about Jesus Christ. Who is John the Baptist? Why is he important to us especially in this season of Advent?**

***John the Baptist is a messenger*. He is a messenger because he applies the Old Testament prophecies to Jesus. His life, presents still a much greater message for it foreshadows the implications of loyalty to God’s work: simplicity of lifestyle and fearlessness in preparing the path for the coming of God’s kingdom. John is part of the good news through faithfulness to his mission.**

**However, John the Baptist’s words and mission should not seem so distant to us nor should his work be seen as one-time event. We hear his words and are called to his mission at each and every mass. In fact, one of the major objectives of mass is to inspire us to be like John the Baptists.**

**At each mass, we are sent out to reconstruct the world in accord with the word of God we hear proclaimed. We are called to create the communion we share in the meal and sacrifice we celebrate here together out there in the world.**

**At each mass, we are commissioned to make the many crooked streets in the consumer driven desert we live in straight by proclaiming Christ’s teachings.**

**If we are attentive to what we say and do here together, John the Baptist should be far less a stranger to us than his immediate appearance suggests. We should recognize him as:**

**John the Baptist reminds us that we must courageously step out of the crowd and identify those things in the world that are not in accord with God’s will.**

**He reminds us that we must be willing to go where the problem is. It means going to the problem areas themselves to be in solidarity with those most effected by the crooked paths of our society, the poor in the developing world, the children in war-zones, the addicted in bars.**

**For all of us, being John the Baptist is as much a process of personal conversion as it is a commitment to reconstructing the world according to God’s plan. We cannot do in the world what we are unwilling to do in our own hearts. We cannot remove lust from the streets, if we cannot get it out of our own hearts. We cannot end poverty, if we cannot control our own personal greed and desire for luxury.**

**As we prepare our hearts and world for the birth of Christ, let us seek with serious intention to accept our role as builders of peace and heralds of the child we await. Let us be genuine and thorough in our preparation, mindful that John the Baptist was not only a model Christian, he was our faith’s first martyr.**

**A gift we find hard to give in any season.**

**As we look forward to the short amount of time we have before Christmas is here, I would make a few suggestions.  In a spirit of thanksgiving, I would recommend we consider the possibility of praying the rosary each day.  We may be busy but we usually spend time alone when we are driving our cars.  Why not use the steering wheel as our rosary? To consider attending daily Mass once or twice a week during this season.  We could use the opportunity to thank God for what we have.  And, of course, this is the perfect time to share what we do have with those less fortunate.   We have been given great gifts they came from our God and, therefore, our first thoughts this Christmastime should be to thank Him and worship Him because He has given us all so much.**