



“And this is what he proclaimed: 'One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.'" (Mark 1:7-8)

## LITURGY & PRAYER

### Sunday Liturgy:

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 8 & 11 AM

### Daily Liturgy:

Tuesday-Friday 8 AM

\*The Rosary is prayed at 7:30 AM  
prior to Daily Mass

\*\*First Friday Devotion  
following Mass on first Fridays

### Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday 8:30-7:30 PM

### Reconciliation:

Wednesday 5:30-6:30 PM

Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

## CONNECT

OLBH.ORG

OLBH@OLBH.ORG

@Our Lady of the Black Hills

on Facebook and Instagram

605-787-5168

Office Hours: M-F 8:30-3 PM

## CLERGY

Pastor Andrzej Wyrstek

### Permanent Deacons:

Deacon Walt Wilson, Retired

Deacon John Osnes

Deacon Greg Sass

Deacon Phillip Thompson

## STAFF

Lorraine Rieth-Ptacek –

Director of Liturgy & Music

Lorinda Collins – Bookkeeper

Mary Marich – Coordinator of  
Faith Formation PreK-6

Angela Hart – Coordinator of  
Evangelization & Grade 7-

Adult Faith Formation

Todd Phillipe – Maintenance

Chloe Allen – Housekeeping

Katie Harwood – Admin Assist  
& SEC

Dear Friends in Christ,

On this second Sunday of Advent, Jesus encounters us in the desert, speaking through John the Baptist. John the Baptist wasn't an ordinary guy, but he didn't share an ordinary message either. In the world full of business and full of worldly wisdom, John needed to do something extraordinary to catch peoples' attention. He lived in the desert, ate locust and wild honey, and wore camel skin. Odd looking fellow, and yet people came to him to listen to him. As they listened, they received the Baptism of Repentance. In some odd way, they saw John as a messenger from God whom they needed to listen to. But John, knew that it was not about him, he drew attention, but he was quick to point out to a greater person, to a greater reason for his behavior and for his message.

We are in the second Sunday of Advent. The time is moving fast and before we know it, we will be celebrating the day of Christmas. After all that is what we are preparing for. But do we know what we truly are preparing for? Do we really spend time praying and meditating on what Christmas is all about? Do we ask ourselves, what does it mean for me to ready myself for the birth of Messiah? These are some questions we may wrestle with as we decorate homes, put up the Christmas trees and send Christmas letters. Emmanuel means God is with us. And if God is with us, do we remember to ready a place for him in our homes and in our hearts.

In many ways, we work hard on making the coming of Christ, a special time. The joy that can be felt in our environment is a great experience. Our life is lifted by the generosity and kindness we share with each other. That spirit of Christmas is already being felt, but let's not forget that Christ will look not only at our "feel good" experiences, but also at the reason we do them. One may ask, in all I do during Advent, as I prepare for Christmas, where do I see God present. Where is the message of the Gospel present? How do I help others on their journey with God? These are just some of the thoughts we could wrestle with, as we continue the journey of Advent.

I would like to invite you here to consider a financial gift for the Habitat for Humanity Build. As Catholic Community of the Black Hills we are invited to help prepare, build and to make a room for the families in need. Jesus was born in the simplicity of life. We have now a chance to provide some of the basic needs to families in need. Next weekend we will have a parish in pew appeal for the Habitat Build. We will provide you with all the necessary information, should you consider a Non-Profit, Tax Deductible gift to Habitat for Humanity on behalf of our parish. The time is near, and God is ready to Baptize us with the fire and the Spirit. May he find in us worthy people of His grace and mercy.

Happy and blessed Advent.

Fr. Andrzej

**\*\*\*Turn in your UNwrapped giving tree gifts  
this Monday, 12/11.**

## Christmas Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass  
24 December at 4 PM

The Nativity of the Lord Mass  
24 December at 8 PM  
(Christmas Night)

The Nativity of the Lord Mass  
25 December at 9 AM

Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent will be celebrated on 23 December at 5 PM & 24 December at 8 & 11 AM. This will fulfill your Sunday obligation. Attending a Christmas Mass (24 or 25 December) will fulfill your obligation to attend Mass on Christmas, a holy day of obligation. Please plan to attend Mass twice this weekend to fulfill your obligation as a good Catholic.

### MONTHLY OLBH EVENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>12/11   | <b>Advent Penance Liturgy</b><br>6-7:30 PM in the Church<br>All are welcome.                            |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br>12/14   | <b>Pastoral Council Meeting</b><br>6 PM in St. Joseph's Hall<br>All are welcome.                        |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>12/16   | <b>Wine &amp; Cheese</b><br>6 PM in the Parish Hall, downstairs.<br>Free childcare.                     |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>12/16   | <b>St. Vincent de Paul Bake Sale</b><br>Following all Masses<br>Please deliver bake sale items by noon. |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>12/17   | <b>Children's Christmas Program</b><br>12:30 PM<br>In the Church.                                       |
| <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b><br>5 PM Mass on 12/23<br>8 & 11 AM Mass on 12/24 |   |
| <b>Christmas</b><br>4 & 8 PM Mass on 12/24<br>9 AM Mass on 12/25             |   |

## Deck a yard!

OLBH Youth Fundraiser

**How it works**  
The Deck a yard Fundraiser for Advent and Christmas will decorate yards in Black Hawk, Piedmont, and Summerset. This is a fun way to surprise neighbors, friends, grandparents, or the homebound of our parish to show them they are loved! Call the church office at (605)787-5168 or email [angela.hart@olbh.org](mailto:angela.hart@olbh.org) for more information.



19 students from OLBH will attend the Steubenville of the Rockies conference this June. Help support their journey to encounter the Eucharist.

## St. Vincent de Paul Bake Sale

December 16 & 17  
following all Masses  
Donate baked goods by 12/15.



## ADVENT PENANCE LITURGY

Our Lady of the Black Hills - Piedmont  
Monday, 12/11, 6-7:30 PM

Blessed Sacrament - Rapid City | Tuesday, 12/5, 4-7 PM  
Isaac Jogues - Rapid City | Thursday, 12/14, 6 PM  
St. Therese - Rapid City | Thursday, 12/21, 4:30-6:30 PM

## Knights of Columbus Christmas

smoked brisket or pork loin

\$130 Brisket (13-17 pounds)  
\$50 Pork Loin (10 pounds)

**PICK UP AT THE CHURCH THE WEEK OF 12/20**  
\*Contact a Knight or call the office to reserve yours today


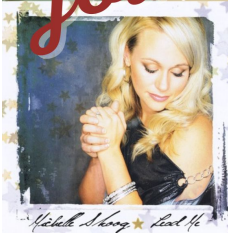


## Join Us!

**THURSDAY**  
DECEMBER 21 | 6-8:30 PM  
HOLY CROSS CHAPEL  
[TERRA SANCTA]

6 PM CANDLELIGHT READING OF JESUS BIRTH  
6:30 PM CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
FEATURING MICHELLE SKOOG  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
FR. ANDRZEJ WYROSTEK

COOKIE & COFFEE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



## Aquam in Vinum Amicus

### Wine & Cheese Mixer

Saturday, December 16 @ 6 PM  
Our Lady of the Black Hills  
Parish Hall  
Free Childcare Provided





# WEEKLY SCHEDULE Pss II

\*The Rosary is prayed at 7:30 AM prior to daily Mass.

**Monday, December 11**  
**Saint Damasus I, Pope**  
7:30 AM Early Bird Bible Study  
**6:30 PM RCIA in St. Joseph's Hall**  
**6-7:30 PM Advent Penance Liturgy - all are welcome**

**Tuesday, December 12**  
**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**  
**8 AM Mass** for the wellbeing of Colette Summers  
9-11 AM Habitat for Humanity Catholic Build Kick Off at 725 E. Madison

**Wednesday, December 13**  
**Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**  
**8 AM Mass** for the wellbing of Luke Von Bank and Family  
8:30-6:30 PM Adoration  
**4:30-5:45 PM Faith Formation**  
**5:30-6:30 PM Confessions**  
**6:15-7:30 PM Faith Formation**  
**6:30-7:30 PM The Search, Adult Faith Formation**

**Thursday, December 14**  
**Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church**  
**8 AM Mass** for reparations  
9 AM 'Just Men' Bible Study  
9 AM Gospel of John Study  
6 PM Pastoral Council Meeting

**Friday, December 15**  
**8 AM Mass** for the wellbeing of Mark Flottmeyer  
**8:30 AM Mass** for the wellbeing of the TSRC Staff

**Saturday, December 16**  
**3:30-4:30 PM Confessions**  
**5 PM Mass** for the repose of Walter Richey  
**St. Vincent de Paul Cookie and Bake Sale**

**Sunday, December 17**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**8 AM Mass** for Our Lady of the Black Hills and our sister parishes of Bullhead, Kenel, and McLaughlin  
**St. Vincent de Paul Cookie and Bake Sale**  
**9:30-10:45 AM Faith Formation**  
**9:30-10:45 AM Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible - Adult Faith Formation**  
**11 AM Mass** for the repose Devyn Siemieniak  
**St. Vincent de Paul Cookie and Bake Sale**  
**12:30 PM Children's Christmas Concert**

## WEEKLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

12/16 5 PM Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Dustin Hoiten (lead), Dominic, Luke, and Isaac H.  
Lectors: Tony Berendse (1st), James Johns (2nd)  
Hospitality: Pat Wright and NOT FILLED  
Sacristan: Jan Evans  
Eucharistic Minister: Jean Hohm

12/17 8 AM Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Victoria Carlin (lead) Alexandria Carlin  
Lectors: Diane Clarke (1st), Lori Caouette (2nd)  
Hospitality: Justin and Kodi Carlin  
Sacristan: Barb and Gary Erickson  
Eucharistic Minister: Brenda Flottmeyer

12/17 11 AM Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: NOT FILLED (lead) Ethan H. and James W.  
Lectors: Kim Wynn (1st), Angie Oberle (2nd)  
Hospitality: Aaron and Cathleen Denekamp  
Sacristan: Emma and Bruce Lehman  
Eucharistic Minister: Dennis Fischer



**Children's Christmas Program**  
**Sunday, December 17**  
**12:30 PM**  
**Our Lady of the Black Hills**  
**All are welcome!**

## STEWARDSHIP

| "All good giving and every perfect gift is from above" (Jas 1:17) |              |              |                  |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| December 2-3, 2023  |              |              |                  |
|   | Automatic    | Basket       | Total            |
| Adopt a Seminarian  | 54           | -            | 54               |
| Sunday Collection   | 3,263        | 5,544        | 8,807            |
| Building Fund   | 44           | 80           | 124              |
| Country Store   | -            | -            | 81               |
| Priest Retirement   | 2            |              | 12               |
| RCCSS Stipend   |              |              | 7,000            |
| Christmas Flowers   |              |              | 125              |
| <b>Total Contribution</b>   | <b>3,364</b> | <b>5,624</b> | <b>16,203.83</b> |

Did you know that OLBH is a Stewardship Parish? We ask that you give us your time, talents, and treasure to support our wonderful parish. In return we will utilize your gifts and talents to provide the resources, facilities, and events to aid you in your journey of faith. **Please prayerfully consider automatic contributions via electronic withdrawal at [www.olbh.org/donate](http://www.olbh.org/donate).**

# PRAYER MINISTRIES

**PRAYER CHAIN** To add an intention to the OLBH prayer chain text Shanesa Rhodes at 605-786-4240 or email [shanesarhodes@gmail.com](mailto:shanesarhodes@gmail.com).

**MASS INTENTIONS** To request a Mass Intention please fill out the envelope on the back counter of the Narthex or call the office at 605-787-5168.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** To obtain a prayer blanket, contact the office at 605-787-5168.

**COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND** If you or a family member are sick and would like Communion from a priest or lay extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, please call the office at 605-787-5168.

**ANointing of the Sick** If you or a family member has been diagnosed with an illness, are preparing for surgery, or in the case of serious illness, call the office to request the sacrament at 605-787-5168.

## Intentions of the Holy Father for December

Pope's Intention: For persons with disabilities. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

## NECROLOGY

To remember in prayer for the repose of their souls those whose death are recorded in the parish; and the bishops, priests, and deacons that served in the Diocese of Rapid City. We pray for:

- December 11 G. Carol Maicki (2004)  
Alan Jeffers Kinney (2016)
- December 12 Rev. Matthias Schmitt, S.J. (1936)  
Mary V. Keller (1986)
- December 13 Most Rev. Harold J. Dimmerling (1987)
- December 14 Rev. John J. Groell (1955)
- December 15 Elisa Maria Chedel (2016)
- December 17 Rev. Michael S. Roach (1989)  
Harold A. Swallow (1998)

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Catholic Diocese of Rapid City is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for our young people. To report allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel, contact the Victim Assistance coordinator, **Barbara Scherr**. To ensure confidentiality in her outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately by phone at **1-605-209-3418**. All calls will be treated confidentially. Alleged victims are advised of their right to report alleged abuse to civil authorities. *In accordance with diocesan policy, all allegations of sexual misconduct involving children or young people by priests, deacons, lay employees, or volunteers in the Diocese of Rapid City will be investigated.*

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OUR ILL & HOMEBOUND** Call 605-787-5168 to add a name to the prayer list. These individuals are in special need of your prayers.

We pray for Edwin and Omel Weaver (parents of Bob), Blanche Rieth, Jean Schacher, Bernard Wiehl, Mary Ann Pulaski, Cap & Arlene Holzer, Linda Schacher, Tony Corbine, Joe George, Tim Curns, Dean & Mary Antonsen, Carol Michaelson (mother of Linda Schacher), Joyce de Paulo, Charlene Mizenko, John Mizenko, The Nally Family, Jean Scheope, Tim Keller (son in law of the Holzers), Joe Vetch, Crescencia Yanez, Iris Overholt, Lenny Tellefson, Mary-Elizabeth Crane (sister of Sheila), Sheila Keeler, Deb Bickford, Karen & Dennis Lau, Kathleen Leutenegger, Ted Schurman, Ruthann Koch, Lyn Gerving, Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, Elizabeth Ravellette, Rayola Anderson, Patty Creek, Irene Katzenstein, Bishop Peter Muhich, Scotty Hudson, Gary Sexton, Bryan Champagne, Nancy Gamage, Brett Whealy, Thomas Koska

**FOR THE DEPLOYED MILITARY** We pray for Andrew Lucchesi

**FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED** We pray for the repose of the soul of Sid Pulaski

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

The weekly readings are on the USCCB.org website.  
Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: ZEC 2:14-17; JUDITH 13:18BCDE, 19; LK 1:26-38  
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15  
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
Sunday: Is 61:1-2A, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



DAKOTA CHORAL UNION presents

# CHRISTMAS at the CATHEDRAL

3:00 pm, December 17

Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 520 Cathedral Drive, Rapid City, SD

Featuring special guest artists Bill Evans, Anthony Nesland, and C  ra Fried

Artistic Director & Conductor | Ellen Shirley  
Assistant Director | Lindsey Torgerson  
Collaborative Pianist | Andrew Belsaas

Admission is free with a donation of non-perishable food items for Church Response.

[dakotachoralunion.org](http://dakotachoralunion.org)

## Coats for Kids Bowling Tournament

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, Knights of Columbus Council 8025, St. Therese Church, will host a bowling tournament at Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City. Proceeds will be used to purchase new coats for children at the Black Hills Children's Home Society. Registration opens at 1 p.m., bowling begins at 1:30 p.m. Fee \$20 each or \$80 for a four-person team. Questions can go to John Schlim 605-390-1584 or email [jschlim1@gmail.com](mailto:jschlim1@gmail.com).

## FROM EMPTINESS TO ENCOUNTER

THE LIFE & WISDOM OF ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

The Lord worked in St. John of the Cross throughout his life, drawing him near to Him through beauty, through truth, through suffering, through emptiness. This great saint shows us how to encounter the Lord as we make space for Him in order to receive.

DECEMBER 15  
10AM-3PM

Directed by Susan Safford, Friday, December 15, 10am - 3pm at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, this day of reflection will provide time for presentations, prayer, lunch, adoration, confessions, and Mass.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

10:00am Morning Prayer, Opening Conference  
Living a Life for God  
10:30 Exposition + Confessions  
11:30 Mass  
12:30pm Lunch  
1:15 Conference #2  
Making Space for God  
1:45 Silent prayer  
2:30 Conference #3  
Receiving God  
3:00 Closing Prayer, Depart

### DONATION BASED

Suggested Donation of \$45 includes lunch and materials



# ADVENT

Day of Reflection

terra sancta retreat center | 605-716-0925  
[terrasancta.org/advent](http://terrasancta.org/advent)



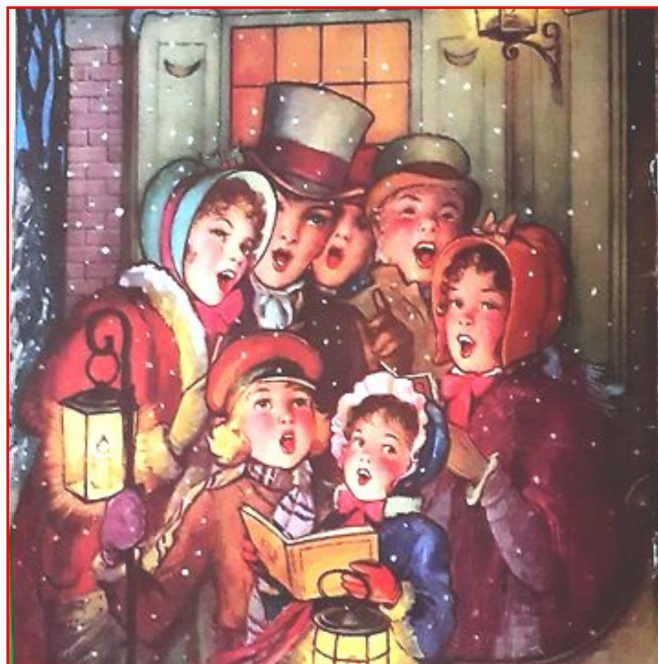
## Catholic Daughter's

Join us December 11th at 6 PM in the St. Therese Church Hall for a monthly meeting and Advent party. Bring a dish to share, \$5 donation, a food item for Feeding South Dakota and a \$10 gift for the gift exchange.

The "KW Players" Catholic Youth Theatre Troupe presents

## A Yuletide Musical Revue

featuring Songs of the Season, Showtunes, and more performed by the families of the KW Players!



Sunday, December 17, 2023 @ 4:00pm

at the Blessed Sacrament Church Theatre Room  
(4500 Jackson Blvd/Rapid City)

—Admission is FREE/seating is limited—  
This performance is appropriate for ages 8 yrs. and up.  
A nursery will be provided in the upstairs area.

The KW Players Theatre Troupe was formed to carry on the spiritual, cultural, and artistic legacy of the Rhapsodic Theatre, a Polish underground theatre company co-founded by Karol Wojtyla (Pope Saint John Paul II) in the 1940s in opposition to Nazi oppression.

## South Dakota March for Life

Join youth and young adults for a pilgrimage to South Dakota's State Capitol Rotunda in Pierre to on Saturday, **January 28, 2024**. South Dakota will likely be voting on the issue of abortion in the Fall of 2024... the battle for the sanctity of life is at our doorstep, and we are called to action! The March for Life will feature guest speaker Governor Kristi Noem, keynote speaker Bishop DeGrood, student pro-life essay winners from across the state, and music by The Bruse Family. Following the program, we will join Ft. Pierre for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, dinner, and fellowship before returning to Rapid City that evening.

### Pierre, SD March for Life

January 28, 2024 - 7:00am Departure (MT), Return Time around 9:00pm (MT)

Open to all high school and college-age students. Cost: \$35 for round trip bus ride from Rapid City - limited seating.

Register at: [rapidcitydiocese.org/marchforlife24](http://rapidcitydiocese.org/marchforlife24)



# PREPARE THE WAY

*Special Collection in-pew  
next weekend*

*December 16-17*

*PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP  
BUILD ON THE PLEDGE  
CARD!*



## JOIN OUR ADVENT MISSION TO HOUSE FOUR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

### WHAT GIFTS CAN I SHARE TO SHOW LOVE TO MY NEIGHBOR?

**TALENTS?** CAN I VOLUNTEER MY TIME AND TALENTS TO  
HELP THE PROJECT CONTINUE ON TIME?

**PRAYERS?** CAN I OFFER A WEEKLY HOUR OF ADORATION  
FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT?

**TREASURE?** CAN I OFFER A DONATION TOWARDS THE  
SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT? CLICK HERE TO HELP



QUESTIONS? VISIT [BLACKHILLSHABITAT.ORG/BUILDING-ON-FAITH](http://BLACKHILLSHABITAT.ORG/BUILDING-ON-FAITH) OR CALL (605) 348-9196





December 10, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Second Sunday of Advent

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

### GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Can you hear it? The voice crying out in the desert? While John the Baptist was the one literally proclaiming, from the desert, the coming of the Lord, we should listen for echoes of his message today. John foretold that Jesus – the Father’s Incarnate Son – was on his way to redeem the world. Through Jesus’ passion and death, the gates of heaven were flung open so all who believe in him would have eternal life. This is the Good News he proclaimed then, and the Church proclaims today: *Christ has come! Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.* This is what we prepare for in Advent – to celebrate, on Christmas day, Christ’s coming into the world, and that he will one day return in glory. The Lord gives comfort to his people in his words, and in his presence to us in the Eucharist: “According to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” So, trust in the Lord, remain vigilant, and take heed of the voices that remind us to “prepare the way of the Lord.”

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each year, we are given the gift of Advent. It is a season that invites us to slow down, reflect on the gift of Jesus and prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. Ironically, though, it happens at one of the most frenzied times of the year as we rush to keep up with cookie baking, tree decorating and merry-making. Advent is short – it includes four Sundays but can be three to four weeks long depending on the weekday upon which Christmas falls – and it sometimes doesn’t seem long enough to truly prepare our hearts. This year Advent is three weeks and a day – so we are close to reaching the midway point, which is a good time to ask ourselves: How tuned in are we to John the Baptist’s message? If we feel like we’re being carried along in a wave of consumerism, it’s not too late to make a course correction. We can step away from the fray and carve out time to enjoy the stillness of Advent and truly listen to the voice crying out in the desert.

**SING** *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,*

*One more seed is planted there:*

*Give up your strength the seed to nourish,*

*That in course the flower may flourish.*

*People, look east and sing today:*

*Love, the rose, is on the way.*

“Prepare the  
way of the Lord,  
make straight  
his paths.”  
(Mk 1:3)



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