

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

God sent His messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light.

The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priest and Levites to John to ask him "Who are you?" John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly, saying: "I am not the Messiah." "Who are you, then?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?" "No, I am not," John answered. "Are you the Prophet?" they asked. "No," he replied. "Then tell us who you are," they said. "We have to take an answer back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "I am the voice of someone shouting the desert: Make straight the path for the Lord to travel!" The messengers, who had been sent by the Pharisees, then asked John, "If you are not the Messiah nor Elijah nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?" John answered, "I baptize with water, but among you stands the One you do not know. He is coming after me, but I am not good enough even to untie His sandals." All of this happened in Bethany on the east side of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

**Think About:**

Have you ever wondered about what it would be like to be the greatest singer in the world or the greatest athlete? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to hear the cheers of the crowd as you performed? Once there was a little boy who walked out to the backyard wearing his baseball cap and carrying a baseball and bat. He said, "I am the greatest hitter in the world!" He then tossed the ball into the air, swung at it and missed. "Strike one", he yelled. He picked up the ball and again he said, "I am the greatest hitter in the world!" Again he threw the ball into the air, swung and missed. He did this yet again and the third time, he yelled, "Strike three!". He picked up the ball looked at it and yelled, "I am the greatest pitcher in the world!"

We all at some time have dreamed of being the greatest. But there was someone who had no desire to



be thought of as the greatest. The man's name was John. He was popular, people would travel for miles to see him and hear him speak. So much so that people began to think he might be the Savior that had been promised, or at least Elijah or one of the prophets who had come back from the dead. John assured people that he was not the Christ, or even one of the great prophets. He told them that he was just a man who had come to tell them about One who was coming, who truly was the greatest. "The One who is coming, I am not even worthy to unbuckle His sandals." The One he was speaking of was of course, Jesus. Most of us probably will never be known as the greatest anything, but, we can, like John, tell others about the One who is the greatest. We can tell them about Jesus, the Savior, Who died for us and for the forgiveness of sins. May we always proclaim Jesus as the greatest gift given to us all.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, You truly are the greatest gift. During this season when we celebrate Your birth, may we share with others the true meaning of Christmas. Amen.



**Hello Teachers!**

Don't forget that the last class for Pre K- 7, this year will be today, and classes will resume on

**January 21** – URI uses this time to clean classroom space.

*Speaking of classrooms* – please use tablecloths or coverings if you are doing any kind of projects. We try to be clean and respectful of the URI Custodians. We have tablecloths and wipes if you need them - especially the younger grades.

Please do not park in front of Swan Hall on Upper College Rd. there were a couple of near misses last week and an accident in November.

**Grade 2** : – Emails were sent to all families who missed the Reconciliation service – if parents have questions please contact the RF office or see Georgann in the Hallway .

**Grades 7**: Today is "Blanket Making" day – all materials and leaders will be in your classrooms to coordinate this project.

This might be a great time to take the Catechist courses offered by the Diocese. Check them out at [ww.dioceseofprovidence.org](http://ww.dioceseofprovidence.org)

The Religious Formation office will be closed both Christmas weekend and New Years weekend – Saturday-Sunday-Monday-Tuesday.

We hope that you will find this break restful and give you time to spend with your family as we welcome in the New Year.

**THANK YOU** for all you do!

*May your holidays be blessed with peace, joy and happiness,*

*Georgann and Brenda*

