

Second Saturday of Advent, December 11

Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11; Mt 17: 9a, 10- 13

John the Baptist is once again inviting us to “prepare the way”. Most big events in our lives call for us to make the necessary preparations. We need to carve out extra time in order to make sure that things run smoothly. This makes me think of many such times in my own life. Of course, we are always in a state of flux with the busyness of life, but here I know that John the Baptist is proposing a REALLY BIG and life changing event. The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gosh, there must be a lot to do. However, perhaps the hardest challenge is to make room in our hearts, so that HIS coming will make a difference. Can you imagine the wonder of baptizing Jesus? The shocking sound when HE came up out of the water in the Jordan River. The resounding voice of God from heaven, declaring, “This is MY beloved SON, listen to HIM”. Most of us were baptized a long time ago. However, just imagine for a moment coming up from under the water, gasping with awe at the prospect of being made new! Of being able to have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Think of the amazing possibilities. I spent many years at the side of a pool cheering my daughter and her swim team members on at their various meets. One thing I never forgot was how they came up out of the water. Each time, grasping for a breadth of air, and looking up to the time clock. The sounds of applause were important, but that clock was key. Almost like GOD saying; good job. You did your best. You put in great effort. I am well pleased. CHRIST is coming to us once again. John the Baptist is asking us to prepare wisely. Let us take time to be silent, to fortify and equip ourselves for the renewal that CHRIST offers to each of us. He never gives up on us. We owe him both devotion and immense thanks. Let us pray for a meaningful Advent.

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