



Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

THE MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the members of Divine Savior Parish,
called in Baptism by the Holy Spirit
to be a people grounded in
Word and Sacrament,
strive to reach out to all peoples.
Through collaboration and sharing of
talents and gifts we are dedicated in
prayer and in the works of justice
to making the Kingdom of God present
among all peoples, races and cultures.*

Come Celebrate with us!



December 12th

Mañanitas 5:30am

**Play at 6:30 pm
Mass at 7pm**

Parish Information

CONTACT US

Website: WWW.Divinesaviorparish.net

Address: 6700 Main Street,
Downers Grove, IL 60516-2799

Phone: 630-969-1532

STAFF

Fr. Agustin Ortega, Pastor, 630-574-9751

Luis Gonzalez, Business Manager, 630-574-9734
Luis@divinesavior.net

Bianca Jimenez, Religious Education Coordinator
dre@divinesavior.net 630-574-9740

Lupita Plazola, Parish Secretary, ext. 121
Lupita@divinesavior.net 630-969-1532

Linda Vicha, Parish Secretary, ext. 121
Secretaryen@divinesavior.net

Paul Berardi, Music Director
musicdirector@divinesavior.net 630-574-9738

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Ministers of Care are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Please call the parish office.

BAPTISMS

Once a month at a Baptism service. Arrangements must be made one month in advance. Parental preparation requires registration in the Parish, active Saturday or Sunday participation in Parish Worship and attendance at a Baptismal Preparation meeting. Please call the office to make arrangements.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements for celebration of marriage must be made with the pastor at least six months to one year in advance and before all other arrangements are made. Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays.

CONFESSIONS

**PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR AN
APPOINTMENT FOR CONFESSIONS. 630-969-1532**

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Holy days: Check the bulletin or website

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closed on Weekends and Holidays

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Phone: 630-574-9740

E-mail: dre@divinesavior.net

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

JOIN THE CHURCH!

Are you interested in becoming a fully participating member of the Catholic faith? Contact the Religious Education office at 630-574-9740.

JOIN THE PARISH!

Stop in the parish office during business hours to register.

QUINCEAÑERAS

Cualquier persona interesada en la celebración de una Quinceañera debe comunicarse con la Sra. Plazola al menos 6 meses antes la fecha deseada. Todas las familias deben ser miembros activos dentro de la parroquia y las señoritas deben haber recibido el sacramento del Bautismo, la reconciliación, la primera comunión y el sacramento de la confirmación o estar asistiendo en nuestra clases/programa de Confirmación por 1 año antes de la Quinceañera. Horas de servicio y un retiro

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please e-mail submissions to **bulletin@divinesavior.net**
10 days before the publication.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

December 10th through December 14th

Wednesday: 8:30am	Ann Farino
Thursday: 8:30am	Lenoir Gallagher
Friday: 8:30am	Katherine Valla
Saturday: 4:00pm	Helen & Mike Pietrucha
Sunday: 8:00am	Lisa Branick
10:00am	Felix Albano
12 noon	Ignacia Ocampo Vazquez



Prayers for the sick:

Rafaela Botello	Herb G.
Maureen C.	John Robinson
Mark C.	Anthony Gnutek
Terry R.	Norbert Wierzbicki
Sherry Toman	Betsy
Steven G.	Pete Cushion
Joann Costa	Bev G.
D. Woods	Janice Sinnick
Fr. Bill Conway	Emri R.
Ellaine Gialogo Jimenez	Elsie Bestvina
Jennifer Sinnick	Paul And Helen Czech
Grace P.	Kathy S.

Please call the office at 630-969-1532
if you would like the parish to pray for someone.
Please secure his/her permission prior to being
included in the prayer request.



The Tabernacle Candle will
be lit for Lisa Branick

Announcements:

Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, December 8th
8:30am English
Noon English
7pm Spanish

Advent Reconciliations will be held on
Tuesday, December 16 at 7pm

Oplatki Christmas wafers (\$3.00 or
donation) are available upon request
after mass.

Simbang Gabi December 20th
6:30pm mass with Bishop Conlon



Bishop Hicks' Column, Dec. 2025



Finding Hope Behind Bars: Becoming Disciples Who Make Disciples in Unexpected Places

We celebrate Advent and Christmas as seasons of light and joy, yet sometimes the brightest hope appears in the places we least expect. Over the years, I have found that ministering to those in prison is one of the most unexpected ways to live out the call of my pastoral letter MAKE to be disciples who make disciples.

My first encounter with prison ministry goes back to my volunteer year in Mexico in 1989. A female catechist invited me to join her in visiting a large prison. I remember the surprise of walking in with barely any formal checks and feeling a bit baffled and nervous about how I would get out. Yet what stayed with me most was her simple reminder: *"They all have names. They are often forgotten, but if you become a priest, remember they exist. See the face of Christ in them!"*

Years later, as a seminarian accompanying Cardinal Bernardin to the Cook County Jail for Christmas Mass, I saw that same spirit of discipleship. He had no family in Chicago, yet he found joy in bringing the Eucharist to those often forgotten. He showed me that prison ministry is not simply a duty but a moment of grace. It is a chance to be a disciple who brings Christ's hope to others.

Someone once told me that one of the humbling aspects of ministering in prisons is that the people you serve can never repay you. You do it simply because Christ calls us to recognize His presence in them. In that pure act of service, we quietly plant seeds of faith in hearts that society often overlooks.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion for four inmates at the Joliet Detention Center. Their deep desire and reverence reminded me again of that woman's wisdom from years ago. They have names, they exist, and they are just as worthy of God's grace. After the Mass, each newly minted Catholic offered a testimonial, thanking those

who brought Christ to them and sharing how lost they felt before being introduced to God and the Church. Their desire to cling to hope and live out their newfound faith inspired me deeply as we gathered in that makeshift prison chapel.

Let me highlight the ministry of the growing number of laypeople, deacons, and priests in our Diocese who are living out this call and bringing Christ's love to the incarcerated. And they do it with no fanfare. Truly, no one is writing them thank you notes or sending them gifts for their ministry. We as a Church and as a Diocese should be proud that so many are putting their faith into action through this ministry.

In Catholic social teaching, we uphold the dignity of every human being, even those who have sinned or been cast aside by society. As Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."* This is the heart of our mission. To see Christ in the prisoner, the hungry, the thirsty, the unborn, the immigrant, the person with disabilities, the stranger, and all in need. It is a true Christian hope. It is the conviction that Christ is with us always and that every person is worth seeing, knowing, and loving in His name.

In a few weeks, I will celebrate Christmas Mass at the DuPage County Correctional Facility. As I prepare for that Mass, please know that I will carry your intentions with me in prayer. Also, join me in prayer as together we carry that hope not only into the prisons but into every place where Christ's light is most needed. Our homes, our parishes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and all the hidden corners of our lives and our world.

May we never overlook the unexpected places where God's grace, hope, and light are waiting to break through and transform us all. For when we see the face of Christ in every person we meet, we fulfill the mission of being disciples who MAKE disciples.



Columna del obispo Hicks, Diciembre de 2025



Encontrando Esperanza Tras las Rejas: Convertirse en Discípulos que Forman Discípulos en lugares Inesperados

Celebramos el Adviento y la Navidad como estaciones de luz y alegría, pero a veces la esperanza más brillante aparece en los lugares que menos esperamos. A lo largo de los años, he descubierto que ministrar a quienes están en prisión es una de las formas más inesperadas de vivir el llamado de mi carta pastoral HACER de ser discípulos que hacen discípulos.

Mi primer encuentro con el ministerio penitenciario se remonta a mi año de voluntariado en México, en 1989. Una catequista me invitó a acompañarla a una prisión grande. Recuerdo la sorpresa de entrar con apenas controles formales y sentirme un poco desconcertado y nervioso sobre cómo saldría. Sin embargo, lo que más se quedó conmigo fue su simple recordatorio: *"Todos tienen nombre. A menudo se olvidan, pero si te haces sacerdote, recuerda que existen. ¡Mira el rostro de Cristo en ellos!"*

Años después, como seminarista que acompañaba al cardenal Bernardin a la cárcel del condado de Cook para la misa de Navidad, vi ese mismo espíritu de discipulado. No tenía familia en Chicago, pero encontraba alegría en llevar la Eucaristía a quienes a menudo eran olvidados. Me mostró que el ministerio en prisión no es simplemente un deber, sino un momento de gracia. Es una oportunidad para ser discípulo que lleva la esperanza de Cristo a los demás.

Alguien me dijo una vez que uno de los aspectos humildes de ministrar en las prisiones es que las personas a las que sirves nunca podrán pagarte. Lo haces simplemente porque Cristo nos llama a reconocer Su presencia en ellos. En ese acto puro de servicio, sembramos silenciosamente semillas de fe en los corazones que la sociedad a menudo pasa por alto.

Hace dos semanas, tuve el privilegio de celebrar los Sacramentos del Bautismo, la Confirmación y la Primera Comunión para cuatro internos en el Centro de Detención de Joliet. Su profundo deseo y reverencia me recordaron de nuevo la sabiduría de esa mujer de hace años. Tienen nombres, existen y son igual de dignos de la gracia de Dios. Tras la misa, cada recién nombrado católico ofrecía un testimonio, agradeciendo a quienes

que les trajeron a Cristo y compartieron lo perdidos que se sentían antes de ser presentados a Dios y a la Iglesia. Su deseo de aferrarse a la esperanza y vivir su nueva fe me inspiró profundamente mientras nos reuníamos en esa improvisada capilla de prisión.

Permítanme destacar el ministerio del creciente número de laicos, diáconos y sacerdotes en nuestra Diócesis que están viviendo este llamado y llevando el amor de Cristo a los encarcelados. Y lo hacen sin ningún alarde. De verdad, nadie les escribe notas de agradecimiento ni les envía regalos para su ministerio. Como Iglesia y como Diócesis, deberíamos sentirnos orgullosos de que tantos pongan su fe en acción a través de este ministerio.

En la doctrina social católica, defendemos la dignidad de cada ser humano, incluso de aquellos que han pecado o han sido rechazados por la sociedad. Como dice Jesús en el Evangelio de San Mateo: *"Todo lo que hiciste por uno de los más pequeños de estos, lo hiciste por mí."* Este es el corazón de nuestra misión. Ver a Cristo en el prisionero, el hambriento, el sediento, el no nacido, el inmigrante, la persona con discapacidad, el forastero y todos los necesitados. Es una verdadera esperanza cristiana. Es la convicción de que Cristo está siempre con nosotros y que cada persona merece ser vista, conocida y amada en Su nombre.

En unas semanas, celebraré la Misa de Navidad en el Centro Correccional del Condado de DuPage. Mientras me preparo para esa misa, por favor, sepan que llevaré conmigo vuestras intenciones en oración. Además, únase a mí en oración mientras juntos llevamos esa esperanza no solo a las prisiones, sino a todos los lugares donde la luz de Cristo sea más necesaria. Nuestros hogares, nuestras parroquias, nuestros lugares de trabajo, nuestros barrios y todos los rincones ocultos de nuestras vidas y nuestro mundo.

Que nunca pasemos por alto los lugares inesperados donde la gracia, la esperanza y la luz de Dios están esperando para romper y transformarnos a todos. Porque cuando vemos el rostro de Cristo en cada persona que conocemos, cumplimos la misión de ser discípulos que HACEN discípulos.



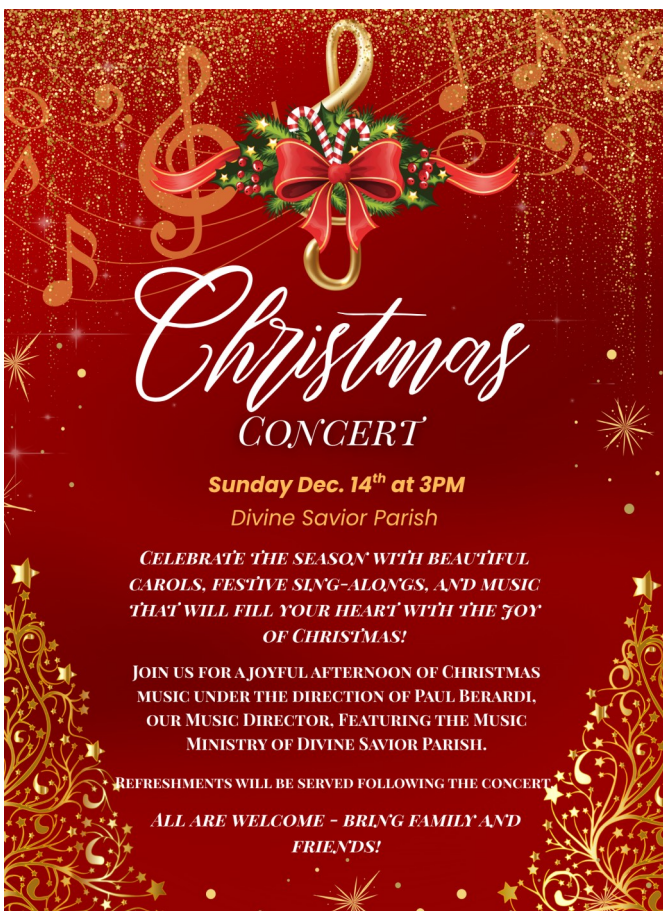
Mañanitas a nuestra
Virgen de Guadalupe

12 de Diciembre

Las Mañanitas		Representación De Las Apariciones
5:30 am		6:30 pm
Misa		Divine Savior Parish
7:00 pm		6700 Main st, Downer Grove IL, 60517

Once again, the group Elevado will be singing at Las Mañanitas to celebrate our Lady of Guadalupe.

Friday, December 12 at 5:30am.

Christmas
CONCERT

Sunday Dec. 14th at 3PM
Divine Savior Parish

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH BEAUTIFUL CAROLS, FESTIVE SING-ALONGS, AND MUSIC THAT WILL FILL YOUR HEART WITH THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS!

JOIN US FOR A JOYFUL AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PAUL BERARDI, OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR, FEATURING THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF DIVINE SAVIOR PARISH.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE CONCERT.

ALL ARE WELCOME - BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS!





Thanksgiving gathering with our 2025 catechists!



A REFLECTION ON THE NATIVITY STORY

Much of our understanding of the Nativity Story comes from only two sources, the gospels of Matthew and Luke. In an evening of reflection, parishioner and former Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister, Mark Hoffmeyer, will review these gospels and discuss how certain events relate to the Old Testament, why there could be problems with what the Bible presents, but also how we may be able to reconcile these problems. Please come to learn about and appreciate the wonderful Nativity Story, and stay for treats and fellowship afterwards.

THURSDAY DEC. 18 7-8 PM

Divine Savior Parish



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/
Mt 18:12-14

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:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “**locusts and wild honey**” (**Mark 1:6**). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— Father John Muir

2025 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal Weekly Dashboard Parish Report

Results through 11/16/2025

152 - Divine Savior Parish - Downers Grove

	2025	2024	Inc/Dec	2024 (Final)
Parish Goal	\$61,400	\$56,800	\$4,600	\$56,800
Amount Pledged	\$88,309	\$67,005	\$21,304	\$70,294
Amount Paid	\$87,447	\$65,940	\$21,507	\$69,774
Balance Due	\$863	\$1,065	(\$203)	\$520
Donors	196	213	-17	224
2025 Rebate	\$18,233			

2025 Parishioners	
2,119	9%
# of Registered Parishioners	Participation Rate
\$450.56	1,923
Average Gift	Nonparticipants

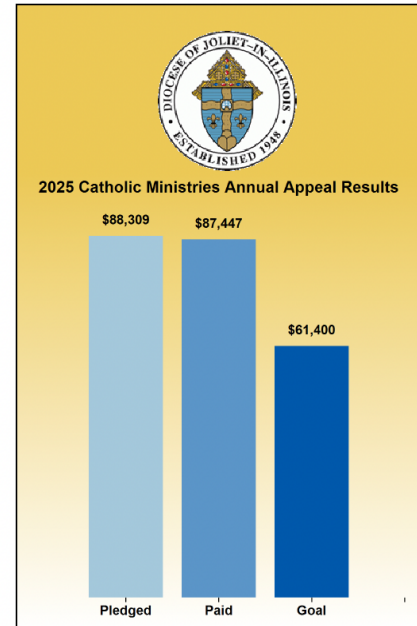
Number of LYBUNTs (Last Year But Not This Year)
50

For full LYBUNT listing view last page of report

Giving Circles	2025 Donors	2024 Donors	Difference
Queen of Peace Circle (\$25,000+)	1	0	1
Xavier Circle (\$10,000 - \$24,999.99)	0	1	-1
Bishop's Circle (\$5,000 - \$9,999.99)	2	1	1
Patron Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999.99)	3	2	1
Sponsor Circle (\$1,000 - \$2,499.99)	9	11	-2
Circle of Hope (\$0.01 - \$999.99)	181	209	-28
Total Donors	196	224	-28

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**Fr. Agustin
and the staff of
Divine Savior Parish
thank you for
your generosity.**

November Stewardship



2025	Envelopes	Loose Currency	E-Giving	Sub Total	Blue Envelopes	Special Collection	Total
2nd	\$ 6,059.00	\$ 2,489.00	\$ 1,925.14	\$ 10,473.14	\$ 170.00	\$ 2,264.55	\$ 12,907.69
9th	\$ 7,087.00	\$ 1,651.00	\$ 2,594.00	\$ 11,332.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 459.51	\$ 12,036.51
16th	\$ 7,920.00	\$ 2,507.00	\$ 1,719.00	\$ 12,146.00	\$ 1,863.00	\$12,533.79	\$ 26,542.79
23rd	\$ 5,257.00	\$ 2,615.25	\$ 2,224.00	\$ 10,096.25	\$ 605.00	\$ 1,318.52	\$ 12,019.77
30th				\$ -			\$ -
Month Total	\$ 26,323.00	\$ 9,262.25	\$ 8,462.14	\$ 44,047.39	\$ 2,883.00	\$16,576.37	\$ 63,506.76
2025/26 Fiscal Year Total	\$127,128.11	\$ 40,584.04	\$44,733.56	\$212,445.71	\$ 13,817.00	\$24,856.57	\$251,119.28

If you have family members currently serving in any branch of the Armed Forces, we would like to include their names in our weekly bulletin so that parishioners may include them in their prayers. Please submit their names with branch of service to Bulletin@divinesavior.net. Please notify us when the service person returns home.

WE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Jeremiah Curtis - Taji, Iraq
 Elisabeth Carrillo - National Guard, Iraq
 David Blazin - US Army, Qatar
 Kevin Przybocki - US Army, Afghanistan
 Anthony Vicha - National Guard, Springfield
 Rachael Vicha - Navy
 Madison Demos - US Coast Guard, New York
 Ray Roberto, Jr. - Navy
 Lt. Jack O'Sullivan MD - Navy

Lynsey M. Gabrielson - Navy, San Antonio
 Major Jose E. Perez - US Army, Chicago, IL
 Eric Jones - Army Reserves
 Michal Kazmierczak - US Navy
 Jon Black, US Army - Okinawa, Japan
 Juanita Iris Mejia - Marines, CA
 Christopher Bianchi - Army, Middle East
 Capt. Brendan O'Sullivan, MD - Air Force





Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools

Beyond

the Books PARENTING WORKSHOP

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD

The Beyond the Books parenting workshop series accompanies parents and students as we navigate the challenging world around us.

ONLINE SAFETY FOR PARENTS

FEATURING THE IGUARDIANS

A FREE ZOOM WEBINAR PRESENTED BY THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 6:30 P.M.

REGISTER TODAY!



The iGuardians are savvy duo of Homeland Security Investigations special agents and their trusty canine sidekick who join forces with a student and teacher to help kids, teens and parents be smarter about online safety. Learn about the dangers of online environments, how to stay safe online, and how to report abuse and suspicious activity. Project iGuardian® is focused on keeping children and teens safe from online predators.

Kids Corner

Prayer

Lord, teach me to be truly sorry when I do something wrong.

Mission for the Week

I pray that people thinking of doing evil will choose God's way instead.

Sharing the Gospel

Today you are with John the Baptist. He is wearing a camel skin coat and has a leather strap around his waist. He shares two grasshoppers and a little wild honey with you. He says, "Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will be here soon." You tell John, "I am very sorry for my sins. I am now obeying God's laws." Then John baptizes you in the Jordan River to make you ready for the kingdom of heaven.

Now color the picture!



Match John the Baptist to his right shadow.

