

Prepare the way



Sunday Reflection with Fr. Rafal



Dear St. Joseph Parishioners and Visitors,

Last Sunday, we began Advent 2025 with the call to **preparation and vigilance**. In this 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A, we are called to **repentance and conversion** as the Church reminds us of the preaching and figure of St. John the Baptist in today's Gospel.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!... 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" (Matthew 3:1.3).

Advent is a season in which God offers us the opportunity to revise our life and conduct and make the necessary amendments in order to prepare ourselves for Our Lord's coming.

God's mercy and love patiently awaits our repentance and conversion. What use would it be to commemorate Our Lord's Birth if His life is not reborn in us? What good would celebrating Christmas do to God and to us if we do not welcome Jesus in our heart and follow Him? What point would all the merry-making have, if at the end, out of our pride, laziness and love of comfort, we reject Christ and eternally suffer in the life and world to come?

In this 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A, let us then "prepare the way of the Lord" and "make straight his path" through deeds of conversion done out of love for God. May we shun evil and sin and choose and do what is good, what pleases God most in the little things of each day. May we carry out good deeds of prayer, frequent reception of the Sacraments, daily struggle to live the virtues, especially those which make life pleasant for others.

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you. *(Collect prayer, 2nd Sunday of Advent)*

Have a Blessed 2nd Sunday of Advent 2025!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,

Pastor — St. Joseph Catholic Church