

# **ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**

COAL CITY - KINSMAN | 195 S. KANKAKEE STREET - COAL CITY, IL | 815-634-4171

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025** 

# 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

#### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Coal City

Sacred Heart, Kinsman

219 Emmett Street • Kinsman, IL 60437

195 South Kankakee Street 

Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-4171

www.stmaryassumptionparish.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pastor	Reverend Joshua Miller	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 2	frjosh@frjosh.org
Family Faith Formation Director & Business Manager	Deacon William Dunn	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 3	ddunn@abvcc.org
Parish Secretary & Bulletin/Digital Editor	Laura Uher	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 1	secretary@abvcc.org
Property Manager	Alex Kuhel	(815) 634-4171 Ext. 10	property@abvcc.org
Music Coordinator	Rita Wise	(815) 634-4110	rwise@abvcc.org

#### **Mass and Confession Times**

#### **REGULAR WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Assumption - Saturday - 4:00 p.m. (\*First Saturday of the Month - Additional Mass at 8:30 a.m.), Sunday - 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Kinsman - Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

#### **REGULAR WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

Assumption - Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. (\*First Tuesday of the Month Mass is followed by St. Peregrine Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.) Thursday & Friday - 8:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Kinsman - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m.

#### ROSARY

Assumption - Tuesday - 6:00 p.m., Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m.

#### **CONFESSION TIMES (Different on Holy Days & Holidays)**

Assumption - Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m., Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m., Saturday - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., First Sat. Only - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Kinsman - Wednesday - After 8:30 a.m. Mass, Sunday - After 9:00 a.m. Mass.

#### **Eucharistic Adoration Chapel**

Assumption - The Adoration Chapel is open daily from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

#### **Sacraments**

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office.

#### **BAPTISMS**

Parents are required to attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the baptism. Please contact the parish secretary to register.

Assumption - Baptisms are ordinarily scheduled for the second and fourth Sundays of the month after 11:30 a.m. Mass.

#### **FUNERALS**

Funeral liturgies are ordinarily celebrated at 10:00 a.m. The funeral director will contact the parish office regarding arrangements.

#### **MARRIAGE**

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Marriage preparation classes are required to be completed before the Sacrament of Marriage can be celebrated. Please contact the parish office before making wedding arrangements.



#### 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.

#### **Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY December 13** 

4:00 PM Mass (A)

†Mary Sitar (Frank & Lee)

**†Sharon Youskevtch** (Youskevtch Family)

**†Lucille Schmidberger** (Harold & Georgette)

**†Ken Cromer** (Family)

**SUNDAY December 14** 

**Third Sunday of Advent** 

7:30 AM Mass (A)

People of the Parish

**†Jeff Keck** (Mallory & Nick Butler)

**†Sis Martin** (Terry & Carol Halliday)

9:00 AM Mass (SH)

†Pat Bartman (Carol Jean Peterson)

11:30 AM Mass (A)

**†Bill McClintock** (Mark Matteson Family)

**†Larry Ferrari** (Wife, Joyce)

**†Bill & Vivian Finn** (Family)

**TUESDAY December 16** 

6:30 PM Mass (A)

†Albert Paoletti (Madonna & Lucille)

**WEDNESDAY December 17** 

8:30 AM Mass (SH)

**†Loisanne O'Connell** (Peter & Roberta Brockman)

**THURSDAY December 18** 

8:30 AM Mass (A)

**Living Intention for Lucille De Gulie** (John & Jackie Plese)

**FRIDAY December 19** 

8:30 AM Mass (A)

†Jack Naiden (Grove Family)

**SATURDAY December 20** 

4:00 PM Mass (A)

People of the Parish

**Special Intention** (Family)

†Joan & Harold Ryan (Family)

**†Louis Ruffatti** (Family)

SUNDAY December 21

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** 

7:30 AM Mass (A)

**†Robert & Millie Baskerville** (Kenna & Ray)

**†Joe & Janice Bertoglio** (Marianne & Family)

**†Shirley Boero** (Kenna & Ray)

†Russ Leman (Laurie & Bob Bianchetta)

9:00 AM Mass (SH)

**†Pat Bartman** (Pam & Jim Siedentop)

11:30 AM Mass (A)

†Megan Riley (Riley Family)

**†Bill Chiovatero** (Mark Matteson Family)

**†Norm Hook** (Family)



**Todd & Kathleen Francisco** 

**Emmi Krause & Zachary Zarembka** 

Joseph Vazquez & Jill Kerzisnik and Family

We're so happy you're here!

**Weekly Confession Times** 

TUESDAY (A) - 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY (SH) - Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass

THURSDAY & FRIDAY (A) - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.

SATURDAY (A) - 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

(First Saturday only - 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.)

SUNDAY (SH) - Following the 9:00 a.m. Mass

(Different on Holy Days & Holidays)



#### This Week's Events

**A:** Assumption

SH: Sacred Heart

#### Sunday, December 14

9:45 am - Family Faith Formation - Berst Hall

6:30 pm - Evening Adult Bible Study - Madonna Room

#### Mon., December 15

4:30 pm - St. Vincent Meals - Berst Hall Coal Food Pantry Open - 815-216-3288

#### Tuesday, December 16

No Events

#### Wednesday, December 17

6:15 pm - Family Faith Formation - Berst Hall

6:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Assumption Church

#### Thursday, December 18

9:30 am - Bible Study - Madonna Room

#### Friday, December 19

No Events

#### Saturday, December 20

2:45 pm - Children's Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Madonna Room

#### Sunday, December 21

6:30 pm - Evening Adult Bible Study - Madonna Room



#### Please pray for those serving our country:

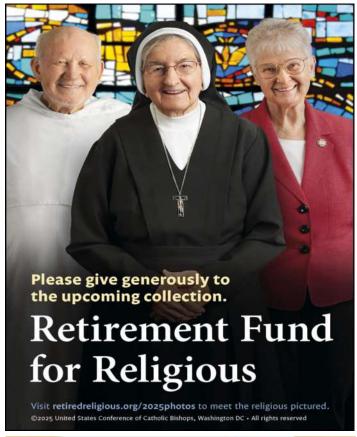
Sebastian Gasienica, Rhys Lyman, Brady O'Donnell, Zander Posey, Logan Teodoro

2025 CMAA Report (as of Nov. 30, 2025)

Goal: \$32,500 Pledged: \$43,902 Paid: \$41,934 Donors: 169

Please pray for the sick: Nancy Armstrong & Family, Sharee Beeler, Paula Beshoar, Tammy Beshoar, Stacey Brown, Tom Buban, Denise Chally, Ryan Collins, Pam Cruz, Charlotte Curtis, Jan Dunn, Mark & Kay Francisco, Doris Giordano, Pat Hudetz, Jim Jacobek, Mary Jo Maland, Gloria Markl, Donna Meyer, Steven Miller, Dan Olson, Jean Peters, Larry Ried, Cecelia Schimandle, Fred & Wanda Singer, Jeff & Danita Stepanek, Helen Talty, Cary Teska, Glenn VanDrie, Steve Varsolona, Jake Veronda, Liz Veronda, John T. Walsh

Names will remain on the prayer list for six months. If you would like your name to remain on the list, please contact us.





Thank you to all the parishioners who assisted in changing out the books on November 23rd after our 11:30 Mass. I appreciate it very much!

Rita Wise

38th Annual Christmas Concert Series

# Prairie Singers



#### "Comfort and Joy"

St. Columba Catholic Church, Ottawa, Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the season with a heartwarming blend of secular and sacred music that captures the spirit of Christmas. This year marks our 38th concert series, and we are thrilled to invite you to experience the joy at any of our four festive locations.

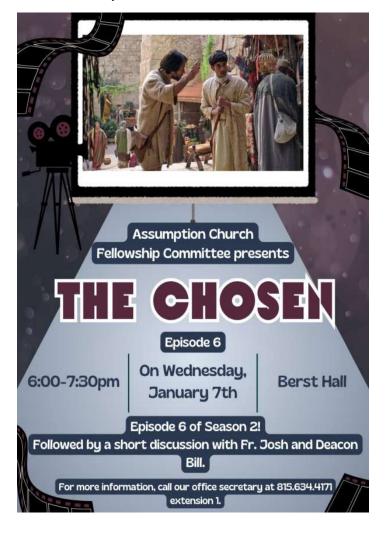
Let the harmonies of the holidays fill your heart with peace, warmth, and celebration. Whether you are a longtime fan or joining us for the first time, we promise an experience of musical magic.

# for your generosity our

As our season is coming to an end, we extend a sincere thank you to A. J. of Vilt's Greenhouse and Nick and Matt of The Flower Loft for flowers and greens, George and Mike of George McComb Landscaping for expertise throughout the year, and the Marthas for their monetary donation.

All expenses for the Garden Committee come from donations and our fundraisers. No money is used from the General Fund. Anyone wishing to help out may drop their donation in the collection basket at Mass or stop by the parish center. As always, make checks payable to Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and be sure to make a note that the money is for the Garden Committee.

We welcome any and all new members and can use the extra help. Anyone desiring further information about our service may contact Suzanne at 815-228-7650.



# Weekly Prayer

### **Sunday's Readings**

#### First Reading:

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isa 35:10)

#### Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146) OR Alleluia.

#### Second Reading:

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. (Jas 5:7)

#### Gospel:

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,

the deaf hear, the dead are raised.

and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." (Mt 11:4-5)

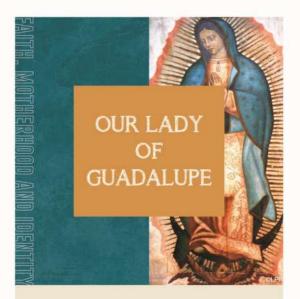
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# Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard,"
Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he
is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We
have heard. We have seen. We must go and
tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who
do we think Jesus is?

### Observances for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent



### Devotions, Explained!

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico City in 1531. The Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beloved symbol of faith, motherhood and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12.

### Prayer for Advent -New Growth

Dear God,
Bring new life! Your love creates
and cultivates.
Bring Your power into the places I
think of as "deserts"
and your grace to the prayers I
fear may be "deserted."
You can redeem and restore,

bring a new song to my heart. Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

### Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

#### 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

#### Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

#### Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

#### Wednesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/ Mt 1:1-17

#### Thursday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/ Mt 1:18-25

#### Friday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

#### Saturday:

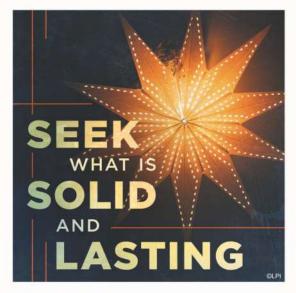
Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/ Lk 1:26-38

#### **Next Sunday:**

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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# Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

- Father John Muir

# **Liturgical** Life

# CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert. Why? What are we expecting to see?

#### What We See in the Desert

I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

# Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

#### Answer:

As Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.



# Ministry Schedule December 20 & 21



Saturday, December 20 - 4:00 p.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - Two volunteers needed

Lector - Volunteer needed
Servers - Volunteers needed

Ushers - Ron Henke, Bob Jacovec, Doug Letterly, Bob Schmitt,
Fran Schmitt

Sunday, December 21 - 7:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - George Kaluzny, alternate needed

Lector - Judith Kaluzny

Servers - Pete Collins, Ron Marketti

Sunday, December 21- 9:00 a.m. (Sacred Heart, Kinsman)

Extraordinary Minister - Brent Sulzberger

Lector - Dave Brockman

Servers - Abi & Gwen Siedentop

Sunday, December 21 - 11:30 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers - Two volunteers needed

Lector - Volunteer needed

Server - Volunteer needed

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us!



Garrett Michael Henry
Parents: Michael & Vyvyanne Henry

Assumption Church November 23, 2025

May our Lord bless you and keep you in His care!



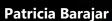
Congratulations to Michael & Vyvyanne Henry

Assumption Church November 23, 2025

In your charity, prayers and Mass offerings, please remember those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May they and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

#### **Dolores Hertenstein**

(Mother of Sherrie and the late Susan)



(Sister of Joseph, Richard, Felix, David, and Mary Alice)

Assumption Weekly Offering + E-Giving			
Annual Offering Budget (7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026)	\$326,141		
YTD Offering Budget	\$137,984		
YTD Actual Offering	\$164,857		
11/30/25 Mass Offering 11/30/25 E-Giving Offering	\$3,574 \$1,558		
11/30/25 Total Offering	\$5,132		
Weekly Goal	\$6,272		

# Assumption Church Building Loan Balance through October, 2025

Loan Amount	\$620,123
Current Loan Balance	\$591,037

#### Sacred Heart, Kinsman Weekly Offering

11/23/25 Sunday Collection \$1,603



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# CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### **Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. - Assumption Church 6:00 p.m. - Sacred Heart Church 9:00 p.m. - Assumption Church

#### **Christmas Day**

7:30 a.m. - Assumption Church 9:00 a.m. - Sacred Heart Church 11:30 a.m. - Assumption Church

#### **Confessions**

Tuesday to Friday at regular times

None Christmas Eve or Day

#### Children's Handbell Choir

Our Children's Handbell Choir will be honoring and glorifying our Lord with their handbell music at Assumption's 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Practices are on Saturdays from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Madonna Room, through Sat., Dec. 20. For further information, or if your child would like to join, please contact Alex Kuhel at (815) 655-2440. New members are welcome!

## Kids Corner

#### **Prayer**

Dear God, show me ways to help my friends follow God, too.

#### Mission for the Week

If you have any videos that tell Bible stories, watch one or two together with your family.

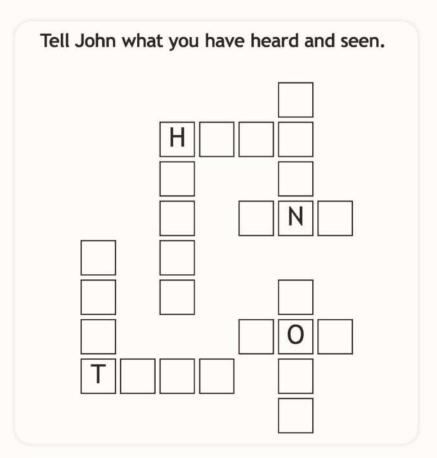
### **Sharing the Gospel**

Name someone that you think is very important. Jesus said that John the Baptist was the greatest man ever born. John the Baptist did not live in a big house or wear nice clothes. He was not the president, and he did not own a huge company. You would probably think he was very poor. But John the Baptist was truly great because he loved and trusted God with his whole heart. He helped other people follow God, too.

Now color the picture!



Fit this Gospel Message into the empty squares:









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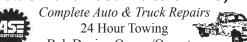
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