

December 10-16, 2017 Second Week of Advent

[Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8 (5) Pss II]

Light two purple candles



They Will Meet Joy and Gladness “Sorrow and mourning will flee” -Is 35:10

Adding the second candle to our Advent wreath this Sunday is a reminder that Advent is a season for joy and growth in the anticipation of Christ’s coming. As we continue to pray and study, this week’s Gospel reintroduces us to John the Baptist, the voice crying out of the desert. This stranger, wearing unusual clothes and eating odd food, is preparing the way for the arrival of Christ Jesus.

In order to hear the preaching of John and to receive his baptism in the River Jordan, the people of Jerusalem had to leave their comfort zone, to walk into unknown wilderness and accept hard spiritual medicine from a man so unlike themselves: They were sinners; they needed to change their ways: they needed God’s forgiveness, and they needed to await the arrival of Jesus. Their spiritual journey was just the beginning.

For those of us who are native-born U.S. citizens, are we ready to turn to the immigrants in our midst and say: “Share your wisdom and knowledge of God with me; Let me hear your stories; Tell me your history; Let me eat your food and enjoy your music; or I have something to learn from you.”

This Tuesday is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join others in your parish or community in celebrating the apparition of the Virgin Mary, who like John the Baptist, prepared the way for the people of the Western Hemisphere to welcome her son.

Prayer: God of all knowledge may we have the courage to step outside our “comfort zones” and to acknowledge that we cannot grow spiritually until we admit that we do not have all the answers. Guide us and help us on our journey, as we seek your face. Amen.