

## Gospel Reflection

*Prepare our hearts for joy*

What great joy John the Baptist must have felt when his disciples returned with the good news! We can only imagine him sitting in prison wondering if Jesus was the One, or if somehow all his preaching had been for naught. Instead, Jesus answers him with a list of extraordinary deeds. “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.”

The items on the list are not random. They are the signs that would accompany the Messiah, and they are being fulfilled before their eyes. For John this meant, ‘*The time is now!*’ This was the affirmation that he needed. His mission was fulfilled; his heart could be filled with peace and joy, even if he was in prison and facing almost certain death.

We, too, can get caught in the prison of our daily lives and can wonder, “Are you the One?” Are you the One that I can pin my hopes on? Or should I look for another?

Rejoice! The signs that herald the Messiah are not only for John the Baptist and the people of Biblical times, they are most especially for us. We were blind, and now we see. We were deaf, and now hear. We were dead and have been raised up. So, let our hearts prepare for joy, because the time of the Messiah is now

*-Elena Cardeña, Faith Formation Director*

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 11:2-11*

F Q H H R U W D D D U V C  
W I T T E D Y E N I R H T  
D K N J E A V S K S W Q Z  
Y E O E W I V S M C O G M  
X H E Q C N G E T I R I Z  
N I I R O L S L N P K E O  
J D G S E S O B V L S E Y  
T X I U E R L T K E S S L  
R R G N M E A I H S Z P D  
P V G S Y R T P I I I K I  
T E H P O R P S E E N A C  
R D E S E R T R L R U G C  
R A E H V S D A S O P I Q

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

BLESSED	DESERT	DISCIPLES
FINE CLOTHING	HEAR	HEAVEN
JOHN	MESSENGER	PREPARE
PRISON	PROPHET	REED
SEE	WAY	WORKS

## Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Third Sunday of Advent  
12/16/07*

*Matthew 11:2-11  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

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Claremont, CA  
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## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *Matthew 11:2-11*

### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of Christ, he sent his **disciples** to Jesus with this question, "Are you the **one who is to come**, or should we look for another?" 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. And blessed is the one who takes no **offense** at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swaying in the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those in fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.* Amen I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

***The Gospel of the Lord***



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### **Gospel Glossary**

**disciples:** followers of a person or idea

**one who is to come:** the Messiah whose coming was foretold by the prophets

**take offense:** become angry or resentful

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- When have I been like John the Baptist, seeking reassurance from Christ when I am in dire circumstances?
- When have I experienced the joy of knowing that Christ is "the One," the Lord and the Messiah?
- What's on the list of extraordinary things that the Lord has done for me?

## Closing Prayer

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord forever and ever.*

*Amen*

**Third Sunday of Advent**