



SMALL GROUP NEWSLETTER ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH CAMBRIDGE, (H) ONT.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2017

Introduction to the Word:

It's a reality that "Company's Coming." Each week we are going to look at aspects or virtues we need to have in our life as we get ready for The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus! This Season can be overwhelming - but we need to look even in the midst of such at what really counts. So far we have focussed on the need for "Humility" which leads us to develop the virtue of "Hope". Last week we tackled "Perspective" which leads us to develop the virtue of "Faith." This week we look at "Forgiveness" as a primary characteristic in our life. Next week we shall discuss "Love" especially of Neighbour. As each candle is lite, and each virtue becomes clear, may this Advent help us to prepare for Company which is Coming!



Warm-up Activity: (5-10 minutes)

(Some of these questions repeat because as we move in Advent the meaning may change)

- What does the term "Forgiveness" mean to you? (2nd Sunday of Advent)
- What do the terms "perspective" and "faith" mean to you? (1st of Advent)
- How do you think they are related to "hope" and "humility"? (Christ the King)
- Do you think they relate to being a "consumer" or "contributor"? (Stewardship Sunday)
- Name one "Advent" goal you have for yourself and for your small group?

Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts,
and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart
to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit
so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities.*

*This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

GOSPEL: (Mark 1:1-8)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptized by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel



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down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

[Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as Small Group](#)

Reflection:

I once saw a cartoon with two panels. In the first was a man at a podium asking, “Who wants change?” Every hand was up! In the second panel the same man asked, “Who wants to change?” Not one hand was raised! Advent is a time of change, if we are willing to take a risk. Too often, in our human condition, we would prefer what we know, even though it is not what we really want. But we are held back by fear and doubt that the future can and will be better. We may doubt our ability, or the love and grace of God. We may see this step forward meaning that we have to admit other things we have said and done that we may want to change. For some of us, it is just too much! This Advent God is offering us an opportunity to change – in conformity with His will, with His teaching and His way. His grace is with us, and His light shines more brightly in and through us if we accept His invitation. Just as the light of the Advent wreath increases, so does God’s grace and our possibility for change, if we take the risk – The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great step.

Questions for Discussion: *(15-20 minutes)*

Each Advent we hear the same call, but each Advent our “path” is unique and different.

What is the “path” that I must make “straight” this Advent?

Can I identify with the humility of John the Baptist, in my relationship with the Lord Jesus?

Moving Forward in Prayer *(15-20 minutes)*

(This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. This time also intent to provide moments to connect and “outreach” to the larger community.)

- As a group plan on participating in our [Day of Mercy on December 14, 2017](#)
- How is your group participating in [Kindness Counts Campaign and Red Stocking](#) projects?

GROUP PRAYER COMMITMENT

- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.
- Pray the [Prayer of Humility](#) that was distributed in your daily prayers with the intention
Leader: **Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray: [Hail Mary](#)**

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