

SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS DECEMBER 08, 2024

14600 TURNEY ROAD, MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44137

RECTORY: 216-475-4300 FAX: 216-475-8242 WEBPAGE: www.stmartinoftours.info ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL, ROCKSIDE ROAD CAMPUS: 216-662-9380, TURNEY ROAD CAMPUS: 216-475-3633 http://www.stbenedictohio.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Reverend Luigi C. Miola, Pastor Deacon Raymond L. Daull Mrs. Julia Brown, Parish Musician Mrs. Roberta Bugaj, Sacramental Coordinator Ms. Debra Zack, Parish Secretary

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

 Saturday
 7:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

 Sunday
 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

 Holy Days
 7:30 a.m., Noon & 6:30 p.m.

 Mon. - Sat.
 7:30 a.m.

 Mon. - Tue. - Wed.
 6:30 p.m.

 Holidays Consult Bulletin
 6:30 p.m.

- ROSARY Monday at 6:00 pm. Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m.
- VESPERS Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART-First Friday 8:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday:	3:00 p.m 4:00 p.m.
•	5:30 p.m 6:00 p.m.
Sunday:	Before First Friday between the Masses.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We ask that parents attend a Baptism Preparation Program before a child's baptism. Arrangements may be made through the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements should be made through the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding date.

HOME VISITATION AND ANOINTING

Arrangements for Holy Communion and the Anointing of the Sick to the homebound can be made through the Parish Office. Please let us know when a family member is hospitalized or enters a nursing home.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The RCIA welcomes all adults or teens who are nonbaptized, baptized non-Catholics, or Catholics not yet fully initiated who desire to enter the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office.

NEW PARISHIONERS AND REGISTRATION

Please call the Parish Office when moving into the parish.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

24 Hours a Day. Please call the Parish Office for scheduling details.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

Mondays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (September through May) Mrs. Roberta Bugaj, Sacramental Coordinator PSR Principal (216) 475-4300

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Our school provides Catholic education for students Gr. 1-8.Mrs. Lisa Oriti, School Principal216-662-938013623 Rockside Rd., Garfield Hts., Ohio216-475-4300Saint Benedict Catholic School- https://st.benedictohio.org

ST. BENEDICT EARLY CENTER

Our school provides Catholic education for preschool and kindergarten. 14600 Turney Rd., Maple Hts., Ohio 216-475-3633 **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE**: The Lord has done great things, leading his people out of slavery to the glorious splendor of Jerusalem. Let us make ready the way of the Lord by abounding in love and in works of justice.

<u>Mass Intentions</u> SATURDAY: DECEMBER 07 SAINT AMBROSE,

BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

7:30 am Irene Batdorf (Family)

4:30 pm Rose Marie Menti (Family)

SUNDAY: DECEMBER 08 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am For The People

11:00 am Bobbi Erwin

(Friends Connie & Dominic Flauto)

MONDAY: DECEMBER 09 THE IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7:30 am Joseph Blaha (Family)

- NOON Kathryn Stenger
- 6:30 pm Mary Ann Bunjevec (Brother)

TUESDAY: DECEMBER 10 ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 am Robert Baroni (Marianna Baroni)

6:30 pm Mike Casella (Family)

WEDNESDAY: DECEMBER 11 ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 am James Baroni (Marianna Baroni)6:30 pm Dorothy Lansky (Son)

THURSDAY: DECEMBER 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:30 am Deceased Members of the McFeely Family (McFeely Family)

FRIDAY: DECEMBER 13 SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN & MARTYR

7:30 am Dee Kriz (Friend)

SATURDAY: DECEMBER 14 SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

7:30 am Marie Theresa Ali (Ben Ali)

4:30 pm Bill Holl (Melissa)

SUNDAY: DECEMBER 15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am For The People

11:00 am Bill & William (Sr.) Ponikvar & George Costa (Carol Ponikvar)

Attention Lectors

Your 2025 Books are available for pick up in the Ushers Room.

OPLATKY

Is still available in the Vestibule this weekend. Donations will be appreciated.

Parish Collection December 1, 2024

Sunday Envelopes	\$4067.00
Repair and Maintenance	\$1532.00
Utilities	\$1577.00
Donations	\$2535.00
Candles	\$99.00
Retirement	\$50.00
Oplatky	\$76.00
All Saints	\$5.00
All Souls	\$15.00
Immaculate Conception	\$80.00
Christmas	\$50.00
Flowers & Decorations	\$595.00
St. Mary Assessments	\$5.00
Cloak	\$1105.00

From Parish Finance: Andrea Morris, Finance Chairperson: Thank you for your continued support during this time.

Please Pray

Please keep in your prayers the sick and the homebound of our parish: Marissa, Mary Ann Anselmo, Joyce Armstrong, Kathi Bayun, Sandra Belfiore, Gaylene Bielawski, Lisa Bielawski, Margaret Blaha, Helen Blasko, Mary Ann Blatnik, Sue Boyne, Judith Carr, Robert Carr, Kathy Carrabine, Alexis Cerio, Christie Cerio, Drew Chernisky, Robb Chernisky, Paul Cramer, Kevin Deka, Roger DiPenti, Judi Filisko, Jeff Fossa, Bob Frey, Bob Gerber, Frank Gerber, Loretta Gerber, Mark Gerber, Danny Goins, Lorenzo Gramuglia, Grant family, Alice Grzep, Ed Hall, Virginia Harley, Alicia Hernandez, Carla Hernandez, Gilbert Hernandez, Robert Hernandez, Christine Hexter, Bob Hrovat, Father Stanley Holland, Jackie Holland, Danny Houlahan, Dick Hovan, Anthony Hrich, Helen Husky, Virginia Jannazo, John Klamar, Emily Kondash, Cynthia Konopa, Jeffrey Ksiazka, Nina Kucinic, Nicole Kukoleck, Sean Kukoleck, Ronald Lewayne, Fred Lisy, Patty Lisy, Diana Markosky, John McDonald, Alexis McElhone, Denise Mummery, Judith Nagorski, James Neitzel, Cameron North, Jim Obley, Sr., Denis Osowski, Marilyn Palko, Margit Papay, Jim Piskura, Jessica Provateare, Angela Rawlings, Dan Remar, Irene Remar, Betty Rembowski, Cortney Ruggeri, Jonathan Sedor, Daniel Sholz, Janet S., Petar Tokic, Jean Toth, Gerald Towalski, Jeffrey Virzi, John Virzi, Frances Yartz.

Please Pray for Our Most Recently Deceased:

JOHN L. JATSEK ~ JANET ANN NOVAK GARY E. ZELASKO ~ EDWINA STEFANSKI

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord and Let perpetual light shine upon them.

HOME VISITATION AND ANOINTING

Arrangements for Holy Communion and the Anointing of the Sick to the homebound can be made through the Rectory. Please let us know when a family member enters a health care facility.

PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

Sat: December 7	7:30 am Mass 8:00 am Rosary
	3:00 pm Confessions
	4:30 pm Mass
Sun: December 8	9:00 am Mass
	11:00 am Mass
Mon: December 9	7:30 am Mass
	8:00 am Rosary
	Noon Mass
	6:00 pm Rosary
	6:30 pm PSR K through 8th
	6:30 pm Mass w GR 2 & 7
Tues: December 10	7:30 am Mass
	8:00 am Rosary
	6:15 pm Evening Prayer
	6:30 pm Mass
Wed: December 11	7:30 am Mass
	8:00 am Rosary
	6:15 pm Evening Prayer
	6:30 pm Mass
Thurs: December 12	7:30 am Mass
	8:00 am Rosary
	7:00 pm Choir Practice
Fri: December 13	7:30 am Mass
	8:00 am Rosary
Sat: December 14	7:30 am Mass
	8:00 am Rosary
	3:00 pm Confessions
	4:30 pm Mass
Sun: December 15	9:00 am Mass
	11:00 am Mass

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

Please join us for Divine Mercy Holy Hour at: St. Monica on December 8, 2024 and at St. Therese on December 22, 2024 Prayers at both Churches begin at 2:30pm ALL ARE WELCOME

CONFIRMATION 2025

Confirmation is May 25, 2025 at 1:00pm With The Most Reverend Michael G. Woost If you are in the 8th grade or older and have NOT received your Confirmation Please call the Rectory 475-4300

Monthly Bible Study Group

Bible study is a wonderful way to increase your knowledge and strengthen your faith. I hope you'll be able to join us. Beginning in January, we will discuss the Gospel of Luke. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Terry Battaglia at <u>tibattaglia6@gmail.com</u>

Guest Article : Rev. Jerome Machar OCSO

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and all" (1 Thes. 3:12). The love we share with others is the love we have received. The apostle to the Gentiles posed a pertinent question when speaking about love, "What do you have that was not given to you by God?" (1Cor. 4:7) Love has been lavished upon us as a free and abundant gift from God. The Father who is love created us out of love. The Son who is love incarnate redeemed us out of love. The Spirit who is the bond of love has bound us together in love. During this sacred season of Advent, we are invited to re-orient ourselves to being agents of love towards one another.

When we are conformed to the Lord our hearts will be made clean, and we shall walk in the way of his commandments. God the Father gave us a precious gift wrapped in swaddling clothes. God sent us a pronouncement of his love that became flesh in the virgin's womb. Both the gift and the greeting are personal encounters with the living God. Saint Bernard spoke of the three comings of Christ. "In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; only the elect can see the Lord within themselves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty" (Sermon 5, In Adventu Domini). Having received such a great gift, we are not merely to give gifts to others, but to become a gift for others. Like Christ, we are not just to send greeting cards to people, but to become the Good News for them.

The Word who became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary can and will take flesh in us. We have only to let it be done unto us according to his promise (CF. Lk 1:38). The Lord whose coming we await, is already in our midst because he is faithful to his word (CF. Mat.28:20). Christ who spoke a message of peace and reconciliation from Simon's boat, continues to utter words of peace to the heart of each believer. The Prince of Peace uses us to establish justice and righteousness. The Christmas Spirit is not a matter of gifts and cards. It is a lifestyle that promotes peace and reconciliation (CF. Ps. 85:9). Just as the Son was God's gift to us, we are meant to be Christ's gift to others.

To be continued next week.....

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It was by chance that I happened on to a discussion about the retail industry and the commercialization of the season that we are presently in and not much reference to His coming but on the profits to be made in the sales that really began much earlier in the manner of timing. Starting from the day after thanksgiving to perhaps the week after Halloween and defensible to the degree



that retailers are able to increase the number of folks looking for work themselves. It is hard not to notice the various advertisements that promise a kind of iov and happiness in possessing or having one gift or another bestowed upon someone at Christmas. There is another use of the word economy that has to do with stewardship and what the church speaks of as the divine economy. How well do we share in the management of the

world and all creation? We are all members of the household of faith and the question becomes how well we interact with the world and (perhaps more importantly) with one another. The custom of oranges on St. Nicholas day (for some) also includes the possibility of

receiving a piece of coal rather than an orange. There are different interpretations of the meaning of the gifts received on the day. I recall one being, leaving shoes outside of one's bedroom and either receiving an orange or that which would encourage some reflection and perhaps purification. Interesting that the first coming of Jesus in the season we are in also gives me the thought that as we await the second coming (as promised) which would I/we receive? The gift of the orange was a recognition of goodness. The presence of coal might indicate a judgment of behavior out of keeping with the household of God. May we appreciate the divine economy as a means of being present to one another as family (recall too our celebration of the Holy Family soon after Christmas). One former pastor would remind me that there is only one perfect Holy Family being Jesus and Mary and Joseph. We too can model the person of Christ within us and the discipleship of Our Lady and foster the life of Jesus through our share in the economy of salvation. May we, as well, be shepherded by the one born to us.

Readings for the Week of December 8, 2024

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3-1-6
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8,10 Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Zec 2:14-17 <i>or</i> Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab (Ps) Jdt 13-18b-19
	Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47 or 707-712
Friday:	Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b 15-16,18-19
_	Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) ls 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

READINGS FOR THE DAY

TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE DAILY READINGS VISIT << <u>HTTP://USCCB.org</u> > CLICK TODAY'S DATE ON THE CALENDAR.

HELPFUL GUIDE FOR TELEVISION VIEWING:

Sunday at 10 am WUAB Channel 43, the CW. Cox Communications Cable subscribers may select Channel 45. Mass airs each week on Sunday at 11:30am.

HELPFUL GUIDE FOR RADIO AND AUDIO LISTENING: WINT-1330 AM airs Mass each Sunday at 9:00 am The Rock 1260 AM Sunday at 10:30 am

ONLINE MASS GUIDE

DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND DAILY MASSES ON THE INTERNET SITE AT NOON (12 PM) DAILY. https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org

OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY COMMUNITY FOR ONLINE DAILY AND SUNDAY VIRTUAL MASSES. https://www.omvusa.org/st-clement-shrine/schedule/dailymass-videos/

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Cleveland's "Protecting God's Children" program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999 or email: response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org You are also asked to immediately inform local authorities about any inappropriate behavior.

Anointing of the Sick & Healing Prayer

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on: January 4, 2025 at the 4:30pm Mass. Following mass, members of the healing prayer team will be available to pray with you for your intentions.

Rosary for Healing and Protection of Sexual Abuse Victims

January 1, 2025, starting at 6 pm, we will pray the Holy Hour for the Healing and Protection of Sexual Abuse Victims. We will start with the Rosary and end with Mass. If you cannot come but want to pray with us, pick up a copy of the Rosary in the vestibule or call the Rectory to get one.

ATTENTION: ST. MARTIN SENIOR'S

Our Christmas luncheon will be held Thursday, December 19 at Noon at Bob's Big Boy located at 7800 Granger Rd. (corner of Granger Rd. and Canal Rd.). Please **RSVP BY MONDAY DECEMBER 16** by calling Debbie at 216-333-6845.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POST #4130

Knights of Columbus Post #4130 is having their <u>"COATS FOR KIDS"</u> Campaign again. Just like last year "CASH" donations will be collected. Checks can be made out to "Knights of Columbus Post #4130" Envelopes are available in the Vestibule. Many Thanks always for your support every year.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTALISTS

We are again assembling a group for the Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30PM. Rehearsals will be from 7-9PM on Thursdays in the church, dates are: December 5, 12, 19. Please see Julie Brown after Mass with any questions.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A note from parishioner, Raine Austen "Never fear ... the Christmas Concert will be back December 14, 2025."

I didn't realize how much of a tradition the Annual Christmas Concert had become to so many! Dozens of regular attendees are asking, "where do we go!? This is a family tradition!" In my attempt to get back in your good graces, I will be hosting a Patriotic Concert & Event this summer. I'm thinking the second weekend of July (11, 12 or 13) of 2025.

So mark your calendar! I'll keep you posted. If you'd like to have some concert music this season, you can still view the video I put together a couple of years ago:

https://youtu.be/fr3BUD3lxgI?feature=shared Merry Christmas everyone. God bless you, and thank you for everything

From Bobbi Bugaj

Entering into Advent as I prepare and walk towards Christmas I always wonder (a question one supposes) why or how is it that God loves me. I am not all that beautiful, I am a sinner by nature but cleansed in baptism. I do my best to walk a path following the footsteps of Jesus but at Advent (using Ignatius exercise of imaging myself at the event) I always walk with tentative steps toward the manager and the child. I am in awe always at the gift of the Incarnation. It brings to mind every year about how much God loves everyone which includes me. I think about the reading from 1 Corinthians 1: " ... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of Our Lord Jesus Christ." This week I have gotten to recognize, again, the gift that I received at the birth of Jesus. One of them being pure love. The love that loves me as I am, that cares to have a relationship with everyone including me. The love that is constantly reaching out to me to me in all that I do, knowing that sometimes I fail. This week in the Gospel we hear "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Advent gives the time to recognize that that path might need some straightening. In recognizing that my path might not be straight I get the opportunity to reconnect to a straighter path and get off the twisty winding road that I recreated. In getting off I ask myself as I prepare for Christmas, are you ready if the Lord returns on Christmas Day. What do I need to stop or restore to walk a straighter path? That concept is frightening and exciting at the same time because it is truly what my heart desires. I want to walk this path, it is the path of love that takes me out of myself and into the world. It is the path of love. As I ponder the reconnections I am able to make a recommitment. I remember my baptismal promises, I remember the saint in my life who helped me and literally it becomes my desire all over again. My failings give me to the opportunity say I am sorry and grow. I grow in love and (dare I use the word) fidelity. Being faithful to God and start again to walk this path creates in my heart a restoration and rejuvenation. I am healed. This first week of Advent has been eye opening. I get to recognize all that God's love has given, the opportunity to reconnect and be restored and in doings so, I get the recommitment to walk this path of pure love. I love Advent.

St. Benedict Early Learning Center

St. Benedict Early Learning Center (located on the campus of St. Martin of Tours Church in Maple Hts.) is looking for a part-time assistant teacher in our daycare. Student ages range from 6-weeks to 3 years of age. Background checks and VIRTUS training will be required prior to start date. Interested candidates please submit a resume and contact information for three references. Please contact Mrs. Malone at: cmalone@stbenedictohio.com with any questions.

Mark your calendars:

AM 1260, The Rock, is having a Mass said for <u>YOU</u>, Our Listeners, Donors and Their Intentions. Do you have a prayer request? Visit https://am1260therock.com/request-prayers-2/ or call 216-227-1260. All are Welcome to Celebrate mass at: Mary Queen of Peace, Cleveland Wednesday , December 11th, 2024 at 8:00am

News From AM 1260 The Rock!

Happy Advent!

As we enter a season filled with prayer and preparation, start your Advent off by listening to AM 1260 The Rock. Filled with ways to deepen your and your family's faith, AM 1260 The Rock offers daily Mass, devotionals, apologetics, Advent, and Christmas programming, and much more. Don't forget about AM 1260 The Rock's own **Wisdom From The Rock**, where you can hear Daily Gospel Reflections from local priests and deacons, special interviews, and more. Listen anytime on the AM 1260 The Rock app, online, or on your favorite podcast platform. Better yet, attend one of the many events your community has to offer. From spiritual inspiration to family fun, they will help to make this Advent one filled with joy and hope. To find an event near you, visit <u>am1260therock.com</u>, (click on the Visit our Website button), and under the "Event Calendar" tab click on "Community Event Calendar".

Catholic Cemeteries Association

The Catholic Cemeteries Association provides free monthly grief support groups in two formats: In-Office (3pm) at six Cemetery offices and Virtual (5pm) via Zoom. We meet the 3rd Sunday of the month. Meetings are open-discussion, surrounding a monthly topic or whatever is in your heart. We offer a comfortable, private, and explore your grief. Come and be in the presence of those who understand.

"A Closer Walk With Thee" - CCA Monthly Grief Support E-

Newsletter. Our monthly grief support e-newsletter, "A Closer Walk With Thee" provides much of the same helpful grief support information that is presented at the monthly meetings but can be enjoyed from the comfort of your home and from any device where you can access your email. This e-newsletter is emailed the first Tuesday of each month to any family/individual who has expressed an interest in our bereavement programs. To subscribe to this valued grief support resource, signup for at: https://bit.ly/ccabereavementbulletin or contact Rhonda at rabrams@clecem.org or phone 216-930-4866.

Say to the Frightened Heart

Bob Hurd

Refrain Say to the frightened heart: have courage, do not fear, for God whose love is everlasting comes to save us.

1. Wilderness and dry land will exult, the desert rejoice and bloom, bloom with flow'rs in abundance, resound with songs of rejoicing. 2. They will behold the radiance of God, the glory of the LORD. Say to those who are frightened, fear not, be strong, and have courage. 3. Then will the lame ones leap like the deer, then will the blind ones see. The ears of the deaf will be opened. the mute will cry out with gladness. 4. A path for the people of God shall appear, a road called the Holy Way. The ransomed shall pass along it returning safely to Sion. 5. Entering Sion, they shall exult, crowned with unending joy. No longer will sadness haunt them, all grief and sorrow will vanish.

Refrain text based on Isaiah 35:4; verses text based on Isaiah 35:1–2, 2–3, 5–6a, 6b–7, 8a–9b, 10. Text and music © 2012, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under one license A-729743 All Rights Reserved



THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST

For Adults 40 & Over Join us Monday, Dec. 9 Westside Irish American Club 8559 Jennings Rd. Olmsted Twp.

From Generation to Generation (L'Ador Vador): A Catholic look at Judaism with **Bill Toler, Director of Liturgy at St. Raphael's Parish.** Join us for an evening of learning and formation as we look at Two Eternal Covenants and what it means for us individually & as a church.

Cost is \$15.00 per person which includes light appetizers & refreshments. Cash Bar is also available. Advance tickets highly recommended for catering purposes. Register in advance:

www.theologyontherockswest.com Doors open at 6:30pm. Program begins at 7pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WEDNESDAY DINNER NIGHT

Next meal will be on January 8, 2025. We look forward to serving you next year. Have a blessed Christmas and A Happy New Year.

Daily Meditation:

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse ... There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Matthew 3:3



as water covers the sea. Isaiah 11. We begin this second week of our Advent journey with this wonderful proclamation of the end of violence and a promise of justice and peace. And, we hear John, the preparer, announce the special mission of Jesus. I can let my heart continue to welcome his coming with eager anticipation. Let us experience today what it will be like to be freed from the power of injustice, conflict and division. Our longing, our desire: that we might be set free.