



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024**

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Service • Worship

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish/English)

Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.
Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.
Friday 6:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.
First Friday 8:00 a.m.
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

Confessions

First Friday of the month 12:00 noon
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Extending the Mission

— BUILDING ON THE —
CORNERSTONE OF CHRIST

Capital Campaign Update

You are invited to go into the gathering area and see the new updates that are displayed on the Capital Campaign television screen! You may also use this QR Code to review the progress through the St. Vincent de Paul Parish website.



The Source and Summit ... Eucharistic Revival 2022-2025

Walk With One The *Greatest Love Story*

This Season of Advent is a great time to pray for those who have been away from the Church. May our hearts be open to welcoming those who have been away from the Church back to the Mysteries of our Faith this Christmas. This would not be too early to begin asking those who have been away to return to experience the greatest gift of all eternity ... Jesus! At Christmas we will remember his first coming into this world by being born in Bethlehem, but we will also witness his continuing unending presence among us this Christmas as well. Jesus is our Emmanuel ... Our God With Us!

For additional information, go to <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one> and investigate more.



... THAT THE ONE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU
WILL CONTINUE TO COMPLETE IT UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS.
PHILIPPIANS 1:6

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

• **Mass Intentions** •

Monday, December 9

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 6:30 am Collin McGuire †
- 8:00 am Raymond Obermann †
- 12:10 pm Drew Eudy †
- 6:00 pm Wayne Wibbenmeyer †

Tuesday, December 10 Our Lady of Loreto

- 6:30 am Bertha Langston †

Wednesday, December 11 St. Damasus I

- 6:30 am Jackie Siebert †
- 5:15 pm Living and Deceased Members of the Jack and Barb Watts Family

Thursday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 6:30 am Scott Joseph Tygett † and Family
- 8:00 am John Moore Family (living)

Friday, December 13 St. Lucy

- 6:30 am Gene and Vera Rhodes †
- 8:00 am Clarence Shirrell †

Saturday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

- 6:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Notre Dame Class of 1964
- 5:00 pm Glen Grojean †

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Norma Buerck †
- 10:00 am Scott Tygett †
- 3:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family (Bilingual)

• **Prayer Requests** •

Please remember the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.



Foster Care/ W.H.O. Christmas Project

If you are participating in the **Foster Care/Whole Health Outreach Christmas project** and have not returned your gift item, you are reminded to **return your tag and unwrapped gift to the designated table in the gathering area this weekend. If you purchased a gift card, please bring it to the parish office.** All gifts must be returned to the parish office by Wednesday so they can be checked and recorded before additional shopping is done. In addition to the gift you may be giving, please pray for foster children, their families, and the foster families who care for them.

“Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!””

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

In celebration of the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the St. Vincent Parish family is invited to attend the 3:00 p.m. Mass this **Sunday, December 8, 2024**. After Mass, a fiesta will take place in the parish center. If you are able, bring a dessert and soda. Everything else will be provided. All are welcome!

What is a Spiritual Bouquet?

A spiritual bouquet is a beautiful, Catholic tradition of offering prayers, charitable acts, and sacrifices to someone else to express joy, best wishes, or comfort in sorrow and often in commemoration of a special occasion. They are devotional acts and prayers said on behalf of someone else and for their intentions.

During the weekend of **December 7/8**, spiritual bouquets will be gathered for

Bishop Emeritus John Leibrecht’s 40th Episcopal Anniversary.

During the weekends of **December 7/8, December 14/15, and December 21/22** bouquets will be gathered for **Diocesan Seminarians** and **Jordan Huff** who is discerning consecrated life with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia.

Spiritual bouquet cards will be available in the Gathering Area. Please return your completed card to the marked container.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule

Monday, December 9, 2024

6:30 a.m. • 8:00 am. • 12:10 p.m. • 6:00 p.m.

The money collected during the Masses on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will benefit the LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home of Southeast Missouri, a housing program for pregnant women which also provides healthcare and social services.



St. Vincent de Paul Women’s Council Christmas Party

The St. Vincent de Paul Women’s Council Christmas gathering will take place on Monday, **December 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** in the lower meeting room. *(Please note date change from first Monday.)* All women of the parish are invited. Dinner and refreshments will be served. If you wish to participate in a lively gift exchange, please bring a \$5 gift item. You may also bring a gift for Birthright. Needed items are newborn layettes and outfits. For questions, call Judy McGuire at 812-236-1755 or Kathy Berkbighler at 573-587-5970. **Come share fellowship and celebrate the Christmas season with the women of the parish!**

May They Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the families of:
Danny Crump, brother-in-law of Larry Berkbuegler; and
Mike Bonifield, brother of Susan Todd.



*May they and all the souls of the faithful departed,
 through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



Join us as we celebrate the 40th Episcopal Anniversary of

BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN J. LEIBRECHT

Thursday, December 12, 2024
 St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral, 615 William St.
 Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703 | Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Woman's Council Bake Sale

After all Masses next weekend, **December 14-15**, the Women's Council will host a bake sale. The items available will be packaged for gift giving. This is an excellent opportunity to pick up gift items for friends, co-workers, and service personnel. Please be generous and support the efforts of the Women's Council.



Baptismal Prep

Parents and godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class before a child is baptized in the Catholic faith. The next class is scheduled for **Sunday, December 15, at 4:30 p.m.** and will be held in the upper meeting room of Church. Contact the parish office to register and complete a baptismal registration form.

Dead Theologians Society - Next Sunday

DTS (Dead Theologians Society) is a gathering of High School teens from across the region. Meetings are hosted monthly on the **third Sunday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** in the old convent here at St. Vincent. Each meeting consists of snacks, fun and, of course, prayer! Time is spent praying for the dead and learning about different saints. The motto of DTS is **Mortuum Mundo, Vivum In Christo (Dead to the World, Alive in Christ)**. Grab a few friends and make plans to attend!

• The Week Ahead •

Monday, December 9

6:00 pm Women's Council Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 10

10:00 am Communion Service at Heartland Cares
 6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study
 6:30 pm OCIA

Wednesday, December 11

9:00 am Mass at Veterans' Home
 9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour
 6:00 pm Parish School of Religion

Thursday, December 12

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 11:00 am)
 9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study
 5:00 pm Centering Prayer

Friday, December 13

Saturday, December 14

8:00 am Youth Ministry Advent Bible Study
 9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 12:00 pm)
 3:30 pm Reconciliation
 6:00 pm Prayer Ministry
 6:00 pm Women's Council Bake Sale

Sunday, December 15

Prayer Ministry after Masses
 Women's Council Bake Sale
 10:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word
 4:30 pm Baptismal Preparation
 6:30 pm Dead Theologian Society (Youth Min.)



Readings - December 15, 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-18a • Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:10-18

Collection - December 1, 2024

Collection	\$ 29,221.26
E-Tithing	\$ 352.00
Total	\$ 29,573.26
Weekly Budget	\$ 35,000.00
Difference (7-1-24 to 12-1-24)	-\$ 6,046.46

Thank you for being good stewards of God's gifts!



Question: This deacon, who grew up in Neodesha, Kansas, celebrates his 68th birthday on December 15. What is his name?

Answer: To find out, see next weeks' bulletin.

• **Contact Information** •

Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools /Diocesan Chancellor
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and OCIA
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Deacon Tony Peters

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Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance

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Gail Overbey, Mass Scheduler

goverbey@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Job Opening

St. Vincent de Paul School is currently seeking a **full-time custodian** for the current school year. Hours are 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. Applicant must complete Virtus training and a background check. For an application or more info, please contact St. Vincent de Paul Parish office at 573-335-7667.

Church Year Cycle C lector workbooks may be picked up in the sacristy after Masses or at the parish office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Vincent's Vittles

Thank you to the **Wibbenmeyer and Huber families** for hosting Vincent's Vittles in November. A delicious, hot meal was served to many community members and parishioners. Thanks to all who brought delicious desserts and to all who helped in any way.



The next Vincent's Vittles meal will be on **Saturday, December 28**. Plan to attend and invite a friend! If you, as an individual or group, would like to help with this rewarding community meal, please contact Deacon Mark.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Vigil Mass

4:00 p.m. • 6:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass

11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. (Bilingual)

On Christmas, all parishes of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau will conduct a second collection to help fund the education of seminarians and help to meet the needs of retired priests. This is an opportunity to show gratitude for those who have and those who will serve the diocese. You are asked to use Faith Direct or the envelope in your envelope packet.

Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1

8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.

The second collection taken up at Masses on Mary, Mother of God will benefit Care Portal, a platform bringing the needs of children and families in crisis to the attention of local churches and their parishioners.

Remember a Loved One at Christmas

During the upcoming Christmas season, you are welcome to honor a loved one while making a contribution toward Christmas decorations. An ornament in your loved one's honor will be placed on a Christmas tree and his/her name will be posted next to the tree. **Place your donation in the collection basket this weekend or return to the parish office by Monday, December 16, along with the following information.**

Name of loved one _____

Person making donation _____

Donation _____

Many Thanks

Thank you to all who attended *Advent by Candlelight*.
It was a beautiful evening of fellowship and inspiration to begin
Advent centered on Jesus and with peace in our hearts.

Many thanks to the following people who supported,
planned or helped with this event:



Planning Committee:

Laura Delgado Ann Hayes
Cindy Heischmidt Diane Himmelberg
Jan Kelley Donna Kielhofner
Terri Martin Debbie Schumer
Bridget Wengert

Servers:

Megan Bergoff --- Jerri Coleman
Maya Coleman --- Leah Jansen
Kim Kolda --- Lorelei Martin
Lillian Michael --- Addie Rackers
Arleth Rivera De Los Santos
Rhiannon Shirley --- Sophie White
Sue Wibbenmeyer --- Ginny Young

Father Rick Jones Rose Huff Cheryl Oberhaus
Jenny Schade Jaci Keusenkothen Jim Keusenkothen
Drury Southwest Foundation



All married couples and religious who previously took part in a
Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend are invited to a
community meeting on the **third Sunday of each month from
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 316 S. Spanish.
If planning to attend, RSVP to Alicia Schumer at 573-225-8776.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married
couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen
and renew commitment. Sign up now as space is limited. For more information
or to apply, go to wwme.org, or call Terry and Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.
Upcoming dates include ...

- **January 31 - February 2, 2025, St. Peter's**
- **April 4 - 6, 2025, St. Peter's**
- **June 13 - 15, 2025, St. Peter's**

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have
questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also
mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please feel
free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday -
Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish.com
or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at [http://www.svcape.com/
Parish/](http://www.svcape.com/Parish/).

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- I am new to Cape Girardeau. I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.
 I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.
 Please change my address to the one shown above.
 I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.
 I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.
 I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.

• Upcoming Events •

Breakfast and Bake Sale
Sunday, December 8, 2024
7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Parish Hall
Apple Creek, Missouri

*Sausage, scrambled eggs, potatoes,
biscuits and gravy, homemade
coffee cake, fruit, beverage*
Adults \$10, Children 5-12 \$5,
Under 5 Free

Breakfast
Sunday, December 8, 2024
7:30 - 11:00 a.m.

St. Ambrose Parish Center
Chaffee, Missouri

*Whole hog sausage, eggs,
biscuits and gravy*

Fish/Chicken Dinner
Friday, December 13, 2024
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Advance KC Hall
Advance, Missouri

*All you can eat Fish/Chicken Dinner,
macaroni and cheese, baked beans,
hush puppies, fries, and slaw*
Adults \$12, Children 15 and under eat
free with paid adult

Annual Country Christmas
Home Tour
Sunday, December 15, 2024
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by

St. John's Leopold PCCW
Leopold, Missouri

*Tour four beautifully decorated
homes and the Seiler School!
Christmas music at St. John Church,
Soup and cookies in school cafeteria
from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.*

For advance tickets, contact
Geri Geringer at 573-208-6445

St. Mary Cathedral School
Live Nativity

Friday, December 13, 2024
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Mary School Grassy Field
210 S. Sprigg Street
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Come and enjoy live Christmas music
and refreshments!
School children will play Mary, Joseph,
angels and shepherds.

Maxine's Shareable Wearables

Cold weather is here, and the supplies of many items at Maxine's Shareable Wearables are already depleted. Maxine's is currently in need of

- Adult and children's casual-style heavy winter coats
- Men's and ladies' winter gloves
- Men's sweatpants
- Men's tall-size jeans and khakis (waist sizes 30 thru 38; length at least 32")
- Children's long-sleeve tops, all sizes

Donations can be dropped off at Maxine's (basement of old convent) any Thursday from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. or Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Please do not leave items outside the door. Maxine's will be closed for Christmas on December 21 and December 26.

Due to many new Hispanic families visiting Maxine's, volunteers that can speak Spanish would be greatly appreciated. Call the parish office for more info. Thank you!



All youth going into 5th-9th grade during the 2025-2026 school year are invited to register for a week of fun and faith-filled activities at the diocesan summer camp, Camp Re-New-All.

Online registration opens at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Some age groups fill quickly so early registration is recommended to secure your desired date. You may register at https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/camp_re_new_all.

Information can be found on the bulletin board in the gathering area. You may also download the Camp brochure for more info (<https://dioscg.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Camp-Brochure.pdf>).

IS CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD ON YOUR GROCERY LIST?

Conference Table Needed

St. Vincent de Paul School is looking for a conference table that would seat 10-12 people. If you have a used table that you would like to donate or sell at a reduced rate, please call the school office at 573-334-9594 or email kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net.

Creighton Model FertilityCare System

Are you a couple who is looking for a method of family planning with shared responsibility and without side effects? Are you a couple struggling with infertility? Are you a woman who is looking for root causes in problems related to your gynecological and mental health?

The Creighton Model FertilityCare System is a natural method of family planning that helps couples achieve or avoid pregnancy by teaching women how to read their cervical mucus. Through this, it can also help women manage and treat gynecological health issues such as endometriosis, PCOS, repetitive miscarriage, infertility, menstrual cramps, PMS, depression and postpartum depression.

The system is for married couples and for single women who want to be empowered to understand how their bodies work, and it has no side effects for the woman and her body. To avoid pregnancy, the Creighton Model has a method effectiveness rate of 99.5% and a use-effectiveness rate of 96.8% over 12 months. For couples who use the method to achieve a pregnancy, 98% do so by the woman's sixth cycle. Twenty to 40% of couples who experience infertility achieve a pregnancy through using this method, and when they combine that with medical treatment from a physician certified in NaPRO TECHNOLOGY (natural procreative technology), up to 80% of couples experiencing infertility achieve a pregnancy. The method can also be used by women who have irregular cycles or are in perimenopause.

The Creighton Model of FertilityCare System has nearly 50 years of research behind it and is cost effective and fully aligned with Church teachings on family planning, reproduction and life.

Find out more about the system at fertilitycare.org. For more information or to sign up for a local introductory session, contact Mia Pohlman, FCPI (FertilityCare Practitioner Intern), at miapohlmanfcp@gmail.com or (573) 605-0793.

Notre Dame News

March with Me at March for Life: Do you want to show support for the March for Life but can't make it to Washington, D.C. yourself? March with ND students through the "March With Me" sponsorship! Notre Dame has nine students from their Students for Life organization participating in the March for Life in January, and are fundraising to help cover the cost of travel and food. Here's where you come in ... for a \$20 sponsorship, you get your name on the back of a student's t-shirt that they will be wearing while marching in D.C. You'll be there in spirit showing support for life!

Visit www.notredamehighschool.org/march to show your support. You will be able to choose the name of the student you are sponsoring. For more information, contact March for Life coordinator Gail Timpe at gailtimpe@notredamecape.org.

ND Athletic Tickets Online Only: High school winter sports season is here! If you are attending a Notre Dame athletic event at the high school, you must have a digital ticket purchased online through the Bound website. Tickets can be found at www.notredamehighschool.org/athletics by clicking on "sports schedules & tickets."

Prepare the Way

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9

Luke's Gospel relates that Mary is "greatly troubled" at the angel Gabriel's greeting. The angel attempts to comfort her, telling her not to be afraid and reminding her that "nothing will be impossible for God." Celebrate Mary's courageous response to God's call by spending time in silence, listening to how God may be calling you. Reach out to a conversation partner and share your prayer experience. *Today's readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38.*

Comfort

Tuesday, December 10

Speaking to the Judeans exiled in Babylon, Isaiah tells of the deliverance that is to come. He assures them that flesh might wither and wilt as grass and flowers do, but the word of our God stands forever." In the Gospel, we hear that the Lord values each one of his followers, and just as a shepherd goes after his sheep, the Father does not want one of his to be lost. *Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Matthew 18:12-14.*

Mercy and Grace

Wednesday, December 11

As you light two candles on your Advent wreath, say a prayer in gratitude for the Lord's mercy and graciousness. As the psalm proclaims, he is "slow to anger, abounding in mercy" despite our turning from him. The Lord is always welcoming, for as the Gospel states, he calls out, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened." *Today's readings: Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, and 10; Matthew 11:28-30.*

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego, an indigenous peasant, at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. Today we celebrate Mary's presence, especially her making herself known to those who are marginalized. On this feast day, pray with Mary's canticle (Luke 1:46-55) and ask for her intercession to help you proclaim the greatness of the Lord. *Today's readings: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47.*

St. Lucy

Friday, December 13

St. Lucy, whose name means "light," is the patron saint of the blind. She was tortured and martyred for her dedication to her faith. St. Lucy is often depicted holding a platter with gouged eyeballs. Pray for St. Lucy's intercession today, that you may give sight to those who are hopeless and bring light in the darkness of persecution. *Today's readings: Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, and 6; Matthew 11:16-19.*

St. John of the Cross

Saturday, December 14

St. John of the Cross is the patron saint of contemplatives, mystics, and Spanish poets. After being educated by the Augustinians and Jesuits, he joined the Carmelites. St. John of the Cross encountered Teresa of Avila and was attracted to her devotion to prayer and simplicity. After being influenced by her regimented spirituality, he was punished for seeking to restore the Carmelite order. To celebrate St. John of the Cross, learn about the Catholic Church's diverse spiritual traditions. Pray with one that may be unfamiliar to you. *Today's readings: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13.*

Sunday, December 8

Led by God in Joy

Today's readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.

The first reading comes from the end of the prophet Baruch's poem of consolation to the Israelites. Though the Israelites have sinned and are in exile, the prophet shares encouraging words, referencing the Israelites' eventual return to Jerusalem. Baruch's words paint a beautiful image of hopefulness and trust in God. Encouraging the Israelites, he tells them to shed their "mourning and misery; / put on the splendor of glory from God forever." He reminds them that they are "wrapped in the cloak of justice from God," and tells them to confidently display "the glory of the eternal name." Indeed, just like the Israelites, we are led by God in joy.

In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist's call to "prepare the way of the Lord" echoes Isaiah words "that every lofty mountain be made low / and that age-old depths and gorges / be filled to level ground." The text encourages us to meditate on the universality of salvation. How can you take on John the Baptist's challenge to repent for forgiveness with joy? Our reason to rejoice is evident, for as the psalmist sings, "The Lord has done great things for us."

Make an intentional effort this week to join in St. Paul's prayer: may our love increase ever more and more in every way so that we can be ready for the day of Christ.

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