

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelsr@stmoside.org
760-758-4100 x100

Prepare the Way of the Lord

As we continue our journey through the Season of Advent this weekend, we focus upon John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus.

The voice in the wilderness cries out: "Prepare the Way of the Lord." In John, we see and hear a message of urgency and immediacy.

So often, as we make our journey of Faith, we become dulled and deadened to life around us. We "sleepwalk" through life, missing the presence of God in our midst, and we take for granted the love and care of family members and friends.

Advent is meant to be a time to shake and arouse us to God in our midst and life around us. Time is marching on! Unfortunately, we often lack that appreciation and only become aware when some event, usually tragic or difficult, shakes our foundations. And only then, do we look at God, others, and ourselves with a fresh set of eyes, the eyes of Faith.

During this Season of Advent, we, as a Faith Community, are reminded of our common vocation to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist and to prepare the way of the Lord, to remind the world around us that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

We do so through our activities and involvements in the community of life around us, specifically in the areas that we call home, Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista. We are to be a voice, and a beacon of light, that points to Jesus, and His healing message of love.

In a very physical way, even our Parish Campus becomes a symbol and reminder of what the future holds for each of us—eternity. When people see a Church, when they hear a bell toll, when they see a tower with a cross, they are instantly jarred into remembering that life on Earth is temporary. We have come from somewhere and we are going somewhere. With this faith perspective, we then, hopefully, live life in a kinder and gentler way; celebrating each day as a gift.

I would encourage us to keep in mind this symbolic importance of the Church we are building. It is not a monument to give us glory, but to give God glory and to be of assistance to God's people, those in our Faith Community, and all in our Civic Community, to live life more kindly and gently.

We are nearing the time of beginning the construction of our permanent Worship Space. You will hear more about all of this in January. During these days, please pray for the success of the next phase of our Capital Campaign as we now complete the final preparatory steps.

In the meantime, as we continue our journey through this Season of Advent, let us recommit ourselves to our vocation to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist: "Prepare the Way of the Lord!"

Fr. Mike