



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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ALLERGIC TO DUPLICITY

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 7, 2025

Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel for the Liturgy presents the figure of John the Baptist. The text says that John "wore a garment of camel's hair", that "his food was locusts and wild honey" (Mt 3:4), and that he invited everyone to conversion: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"! He preached the nearness of the Kingdom. In short, he was an austere and radical man, who at first sight might appear somewhat harsh and could instil a certain fear. But then again, we can ask ourselves why does the Church propose him each year as our primary travelling companion during this Season of Advent? What is hidden behind his severity, behind his apparent harshness? What is John's secret? What is the message the Church gives us today with John?

In reality, the Baptist, more than being a harsh man, was a man who was allergic to duplicity. Listen well to this: allergic to duplicity. For example, when the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were known for their hypocrisy, approached him, his "allergic reaction" was very strong! In fact, some of them probably went to him out of curiosity or opportunism because John had become quite popular. These Pharisees and Sadducees were content with themselves and, faced with the Baptist's sharp appeal, they justified themselves by saying: "We have Abraham as our father". Thus, due to duplicity and presumption, they did not welcome the moment of grace, the opportunity to begin a new life. They were closed in the presumption of being right. So, John says to them: "Bear fruit that befits repentance!". This is a cry of love, like the cry of a father who sees his son ruining himself and tells him: "Don't throw your life away"! In essence, dear brothers and sisters, hypocrisy is the greatest danger because it can ruin even the most sacred realities. Hypocrisy is a serious danger. This is why the Baptist — as Jesus would be later — was harsh with hypocrites. We can read, for example, chapter 23 of Matthew, in which Jesus speaks so strongly to the hypocrites of that time. And why do the Baptist and Jesus do this? To shake them up. Instead, those who felt they were sinners "went out to him [John], and they were baptized by him, confessing their sins". Therefore, prowess is not important to welcome God, but rather humility. This is the path to welcome God. Not prowess: "We are strong, We are great people..."! No. Humility. "I am a sinner". But not in an abstract way, no — "because of this and this and this". Each of us has to confess our own sins, our own failings, our own hypocrisy, firstly to ourselves. We have to get off the pedestal and immerse ourselves in the water of repentance.

Dear brothers and sisters, with his "allergic reactions" John makes us reflect. Are we not at times a bit like those Pharisees? Perhaps we look at others from top to bottom, thinking that we are better than them, that we have our lives under control, that we do not need God or the Church, or our brothers or sisters, every day. We forget that it is legitimate to look down on someone else only in one case: when it is necessary to help them get up. This is the only case. The others are not legitimate. Advent is a time of grace to take off our masks — each one of us has them — and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of believing we are self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God's pardon, to ask forgiveness from those we offended. This is how to begin a new life. There is only one way, the way of humility — to purify ourselves from the sense of superiority, from formalism and hypocrisy, to see others as our brothers and sisters, sinners like ourselves, and to see Jesus as the Saviour who comes for us, not for others, for us, just as we are, with our poverty, misery and failings, above all with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved.

And let us remember another thing: with Jesus, there is always the possibility of beginning again. It is never too late. There is always the possibility to begin again. Take courage. He is close to us and this is a time of conversion. Each of us can think: "I have this situation inside, this problem that I am ashamed of...". But Jesus is beside you. Begin again. There is always the possibility of taking a step forward. He is waiting for us and never grows tired of us. He never tires! And we are annoying, but he never grows tired! Let us listen to John the Baptist's appeal to return to God. And let us not let this Advent go by like days on the calendar because this is a time of grace, a grace for us too, here and now! May Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us to meet him, and our brothers and sisters on the way of humility, which is the only one that will help us go ahead.

POPE FRANCIS — December 4, 2022

Lunes, 8 de diciembre, Monday, December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there will be Mass at 11AM

John B. Miller & Friends Advent / Christmas Music Featuring Carrie Guse, Joe Orlando & Andrea Weber-Steckly, on **Tuesday December 9th at 7:00 p.m.** No tickets are needed, free will offering to support John B. Miller and Friends, donations may be made in cash at the concert (*they suggest \$20 per person*), or sent by Interac e-transfer to: john@johnbmiller.ca Or by regular mail to: John Miller, 520 Country Clair Pl. Kitchener, ON N2A 4M7. More information, please contact <https://www.johnbmiller.ca/>

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 6 **5:00 PM**
+Gerard Hennessey

Sunday, December 7 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Monday, December 8 **11:00 AM**
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 9 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, December 10 **11:00 AM**

Thursday, December 11 **11:00 AM**

Friday, December 12 **11:00 AM**
Our Lady of Guadalupe
+Ron & Pauline Craig

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 13 **5:00 PM**
+Alexander Ropchan

Sunday, December 14 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

II Domingo de Adviento

Sabado 6 de Diciembre **7:00 PM**
+Elsa Montero +Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 7 de Diciembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Lunes 8 de diciembre **12:00 PM**
La Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen

Martes 9 de Noviembre **12:00 PM**
+Teresa Morales Castro

Miercoles 10 de Noviembre **12:00 PM**

Jueves 11 de Noviembre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 12 de Noviembre **12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

III Domingo de Adviento

Sabado 13 de Diciembre **7:00 PM**
+Pedro Antonio Molina

Domingo 14 de Diciembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: El viernes 12 de diciembre, además de la Misa de 12PM, tendremos la **representación de las apariciones** de la Virgen de Guadalupe a las **6PM**, **Misa a las 7PM** seguida de la **serenata** a la Virgen y se concluirá con un compartir en el salón parroquial.

Next Weekend—Third Sunday of Advent— Bambinelli Sunday

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass next weekend, **December 13 and December 14**, to be blessed as we too celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day - as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.