



HE WILL  
BAPTIZE  
WITH  
THE  
HOLY  
SPIRIT  
AND  
FIRE.

## December 5, 2010 • Second Sunday of Advent

To the modern mind, the presence of John the Baptist would have been something to write home about. For the forgotten and powerless, he was a sight for sore eyes. Never mind his taste in food and fashion, his appearance promised blessing. Israel had experienced a long, dry period when no prophet appeared. The just dwelt in dwindling hope. They themselves were the desert thirsting for a word, waiting to flower forth with God's own life.

### THE PROMISED ONE

When John spoke, people knew they had been addressed. He didn't care about rank, heritage, or erudition. The God who could make the desert flower was the same God who raised up fresh life from the stump of Jesse, David's father. And this Spirit-filled One would sweep the desert floor clean and then sweep into God's embrace those who waited in hope.

John was the forerunner of the promised redeemer. The people consulted their own rich history to see what lay ahead. Oddly, or typically, those who knew the most—the Pharisees

and Sadducees—seemed to understand John the least. Those who chose to rest on their inheritance, privilege, and power had already limited the boundaries of God's benevolence. The One who was to come would call for a largeness of heart. He could not and would not be squeezed into the tiny vision of the few who led. They belonged to a small, exclusive club that had already reached full capacity. There was no room in their inn.

But the ones who waited for the blossoming forth of the promised Messiah were precisely the ones who had room. In and through these thirsty and hopeful ones, God's justice would rule from the river to the ends of the earth. The whole business of transformation would begin in the hungry, waiting, hopeful heart where all transformation begins. The flowering desert is but an image of this new world.

Today's Readings: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Copyright © 2010, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., 3708 River Road, Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approbation.

# The Church of St. John the Martyr

Church: 250 E. 72nd St., •Phone: 212-744-4880

Carmelite Priory and Mailing Address: 259 E. 71st St., New York, NY 10021

WEB: [www.saintjohnthemartyr.com](http://www.saintjohnthemartyr.com)



**SUNDAY MASSES:** Sat. 5:30pm, Sun. 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 5:30pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** 7:30am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

**SATURDAY MASSES:** 9:00am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday - 4:30pm to 5:00 pm

**BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES:** Kindly make arrangements at the Priory



## Our Parish Personnel

### Carmelite Friars:

Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm.,  
Pastor  
Fr. Sunny John, O.Carm.,  
Parochial Vicar  
Fr. Paul Feeley, O.Carm.,  
Prior  
Fr. Sunny Mathew, O.Carm.,  
In Residence

### Trustees:

Joseph Siracusano, Susan Trammell

### Director Music Ministry:

Anne Holland

### Secretary/Admin. Ass't.:

Susan Trammell

### Custodian:

Michael Piñeda

### Schedule of Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday after Mass  
Rosary: Daily at 12:00 Noon

## Mass Intentions

**Sun. December 5, 2010**

**Mon. December 6, 2010**

12:15 p.m. Rev. Vincent J. Campbell

5:30 p.m. Tone Lucaj

**Tues. December 7, 2010**

5:30 p.m. Lucy & Malachy Kelleher

**Wed. December 8, 2010**

7:30 a.m. In memory of George Rada

12:15 p.m. Kris & Jadeusz Rosolowski

5:30 p.m. Tone Lucaj

**Thurs. December 9, 2010**

7:30 a.m. Michael & Bridget Walsh

12:15 p.m. James W. Manousos

**Fri. December 10, 2010**

**Sat. December 11, 2010**

12:15 p.m. In memory of Joseph Bova

## Stewardship

### *"Continuing Our Journey Together"*

1st Collection, 11/28/10: \$ 2,923.00

From ParishPay: \$1,424.00

Total 1st Coll. 11/28/10: \$4,347.00

1st Coll, 11/29/09: \$3,859.00

*Generous giving is an expression of our gratitude to  
God for our homes, our jobs, our families and  
friends. Thank you.*

To sign-up for ParishPay go to:

[www.paritypay.com](http://www.paritypay.com)

## December 8th Immaculate Conception

Immaculate  
Conception



**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Dec. 7th: Vigil, 5:30**

**Dec. 8th: 7:30, 12:15, 5:30**

## Our Lady of Guadalupe

**December 12th** : Our Lady of Guadalupe, the **Patroness of the Americas**, appeared to native American Juan Diego in 1531, requesting that a church be built on the spot. When the bishop asked for a sign confirming the authenticity of the apparition, she responded by producing roses in December for Juan Diego to gather, and left an image of herself imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma or mantle.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

# 2nd Sunday of Advent December 5, 2010

## The Action of Hospitality

Do you own any action figures? They've been around since G.I. Joe in 1964... including Star Wars, Spiderman, or The Fantastic Four. Today's gospel brings us a real-life action figure: John the Baptist. John was prepared by God in the desert, rough and ready for his task: to announce Jesus to the world. His message? "Reform your lives! The reign of God is at hand."

John says "Turn away from your sins!" But today, he sees dishonest Pharisees and Sadducees coming up for baptism to impress the public. John doesn't pussyfoot around: "You brood of vipers!... Give some evidence that you mean to reform!" The Pharisees put on a good outward show, but they had a total lack of spiritual hospitality. They were proud of being Abraham's descendants, but they didn't "walk his walk" by opening their hearts to welcome Jesus. And John knew they had no intention of reforming!

How often are we prone to the same temptations? Christmas is Jesus' ultimate act of hospitality, and Advent is our time to bring Jesus' "ultimate hospitality" to every situation we find ourselves in: bringing greater warmth, openness, love, and welcome everywhere.

What if, during Advent, we saw every conversation as a way to radiate Christ's hospitality? What if we stripped the complaints out of our talk, and practiced the phrase, "Tell me more"... and then listened with patient encouragement? Hospitality is an action word! Do I welcome unexpected changes... new ideas or people into my life? Or do I feel annoyed, or project a "back off or else!" attitude?

May God, the source of patience, give us the same point of view as Jesus this Advent!

## Make a Difference



Since 1928, our Carmelite Saint Simon Stock School in the Bronx has been providing children K-8 with a superb Catholic education. Located in the poorest urban congressional district in the U.S., the school is a living expression of the teaching mission of the Church. Unfortunately, student scholarships have severely diminished. Generous donors, who have reduced their support in the current economic downturn, have unknowingly jeopardized the future of so many children for whom public school may be an option but, more likely, a dead end. Thanks to Fr Sean, himself a graduate of St Simon Stock H.S., we are seeking individuals or families who would like to "adopt" a student by offering a full or partial scholarship to that student.

Please contact Fr Nelson Belizario, O.Carm., St Simon Stock School, 718-367-1251 to discuss this urgent need or simply to visit the school.

## December Memorials

Sanctuary Lamp, Bread,  
Wine, Altar Candles

In Memory of  
George Rada

Donated by  
Jacqueline Rada