

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission has asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling "The First Fifteen." We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week's weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, December 10, 201

Gospel Reading: Mark 1 1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet;

Behold, I am sending a messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying in the desert; "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to hear him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed; "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Questions to Ponder:

Luke presents John the Baptist as someone preparing the way for the Savior, proclaiming the many things Jesus will do for the people. In this gospel John gives three blessings from God that we now know as Sacraments – Baptism, forgiveness of sins and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

1. What do you remember about your reception of the 3 sacraments Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation?
2. How has your faith changed your life and kept you on the right path?
3. What plans do you and your family have to prepare for the coming of the Lord this Christmas?

End with the "**Glory Be**"

"Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen"