

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 17, 2017

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Christ.” So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” and he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you?, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?” He said: What do you have to say for yourself?” He said:

“I am the voice of one crying out in the dessert, ‘ make straight the way of the Lord.’

As Isaiah the prophet said, “ some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Questions to Ponder:

This week sees John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. The gospel writer tells us that he preached the good news of Jesus’ coming. Advent is our opportunity to prepare the way for Jesus to come into our lives as we “clean up our act” in preparation for Christmas.

1. Share an Advent ritual or practice that has been special to you.
2. Is outreach to the needy part of your Advent planning as you prepare for your Christmas celebration? If so what things come to mind as how to implement them?
3. What do you see offered in our parish that can help you make Advent and Christmas a spiritual blessing? Spiritual reading material, acts of charity, increased opportunities for worship? Can you identify any others?

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”