



Today's Gospel centers on John the Baptist. It connects the Baptism of Jesus by John with every person who has ever been Baptized. Like John, each one of us is called "To prepare the Way of the Lord". Advent is a time of preparation.

These weeks of Advent prepare us for Christmas with holiday music over the airwaves, decorations in the stores, lights and seasonal displays outside the house, cookies in the oven, shopping for presents, parties with family and friends and preparations for a sumptuous Christmas dinner!

The days before Christmas are a time marked by various preparations. What this teaches us is that times of waiting are not passive but instead are moments of preparation.

With the circumstances of recent times, we can feel like we are out in the wilderness with the rest of God's people waiting for some guidance and direction. However, we are called during Advent to "make straight" our own individual lives. We are called today to ask ourselves if we are open to a change of heart, a willingness to be turned in a new direction.

Are we being called to bring some forgiveness, patience, love and peace to our own hearts, to our families, to our friends, to our co-workers and to our world? In Baptism we were empowered to be people who carry the teachings of Jesus into our contemporary world... that call is waiting beneath the waters of our heart and soul... waiting to surface during Advent.