



December 10, 2017 Second Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 5 Gospel MK 1:1-8

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* 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 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."

Spiritual Reflection: - Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen

"God's will is your passport to heaven: "The one who does the will of my Father in heaven will enter the kingdom of heaven" (cf. Mt 7:21)." - Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen. John knew his success came from God and not from others.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Where does your success come from?
2. How are you preparing the way for the Lord?
3. Do you stand out in anyway because of your Catholic faith?
4. What do you find most helpful about the character of John the Baptist?
5. How does John's story impact your prayer life?