



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

## THIS SUNDAY December 4 & BEYOND

“The world is full of good people, if you can’t find one, be one.” Mother Teresa.

John the Baptist is one of the most popular prophets in the Bible. He is also one of the most unusual, different, and perhaps even, off-putting. That’s a strange combination, but it’s also very true. If I were to try to emulate him, I might find myself in a bit of trouble, and completely unemployable!



Let’s look at a couple of reasons for this. First of all, his dress and diet are unusual to say the least. Matthew’s gospel says: “Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locust and wild honey.” (Matt. 3:4) You can’t help but wonder about that. I enjoy honey on occasion, but I never combine it with locust, there are better ways to get protein into my diet. My black clothes and white collar are a bit different than most people’s, but look quite fine for my profession. I also love the long alb and chasuble I get to wear when I preside at the eucharist. After two thousand years, people have gotten used to them. No camel haired cloak for me.

But, it goes well beyond his clothing and food, it’s how John addresses his audience. He insults them! That’s right, John the Baptist puts his hearers on notice whenever he preaches to them. “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Matt. 3:7) Isn’t it amazing that he feels quite free to say that to the throngs who come out to hear him preach? His chief sermon title is “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Again, he is telling his listeners that they are not right with God.

And they loved him for it. That’s very important to understand. John didn’t mince words, he spoke straight from the heart about the kingdom of heaven, and what is required of us. Matthew tells us, “Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him...they were baptized by him...confessing their sins.” (Matt. 3:5-6)

John's message of judgement and repentance were well received because John's voice was an authentic proclamation of God's message to us.

The Rev. Steven L. Schuneman  
Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

## Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 11:1-10   Psalm 72:1-8   Romans 15:4-13   Matthew 3:1-12

## Calendar

SUNDAY:            8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
                      9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)  
                      10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)  
                          —*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY            7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY:        Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY:           9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)  
                      9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

### AA Meeting

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)  
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)  
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)