

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

“Get ready for the Lord to come,” says John: he will sweep away in judgment whatever does not make for his kingdom of righteousness. John reminds us that he whom we await is not only guest but King and Judge: that in some ways his coming is like an examination or an inspection as well as a gracious visit to his own people. How do we receive this as the “good news” Luke says it is?

Talk together this week about the different things we do to get ready for Christmas. We get ready to *celebrate a holiday*: cooking, decorating the house ... shopping for gifts, making gifts, wrapping them ... sending cards, expecting guests, planning visits or travel. We get ready to *celebrate a feast of the Church*: practicing choir music or children’s pageant, decorating the church, polishing the brass. And, especially if we are children, we get ready to *receive gifts*, hoping and dreaming of the presents that will appear, and hanging up a stocking in faith.

Getting ready for Christmas is not the same as getting ready for Christ’s coming. It is not *Christmas* that comes in judgment, but *Christ*. Christ will not judge us on how well we have prepared for the holidays, but on how we have prepared for him. John says we are to *share with the poor and outcast, live out our vocations faithfully, and wait with joy and hope*. Our vocation may include parenthood and parish membership, with all the big and little jobs that go with these roles—but what matters is doing our work with love ... and the sharing, which John puts first of all.

*Getting ready* means clearing space, organizing, laying in supplies, setting the stage or the table, getting dressed up ... John tells us to do this, but to remember that it is “good news,” because the Guest we are preparing for is our heart’s desire. And then, *getting ready means waiting*—for the doorbell to ring or the show to begin—and just letting what will happen, happen: hanging up our stockings, saying our prayers, and going to bed full of joy and hope because of the present we know God will give us. With your child, imagine that Guest, that gift ... and rejoice!

© 1988 by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard. All rights reserved.  
THE SUNDAY PAPER, 19 Colony Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA  
203 - 624-2520 • [www.the-sunday-paper.com](http://www.the-sunday-paper.com)



# THE SUNDAY PAPER

# JUNIOR

Year C  
3rd SUNDAY  
in  
ADVENT

John the Baptist said,  
“Change your ways!”  
Get ready for God’s Kingdom!”

LUKE 3:7-8



WE CALL JOHN "THE BAPTIST," BECAUSE HE BAPTIZED PEOPLE.

John said that God was about to send the MESSIAH, to set his people free and be their King.

He said, "Get ready! Learn to love God, and share what you have, and don't fight or cheat!"



Many people came to John to be baptized. They wanted to make their lives clean and new.

John said, "I'm not the Messiah. He's much greater than I am. But he is coming soon!"



Advent is a time for getting ready. We get ready for Christmas, and we also get ready for God to do new and special things for us.

John said, "The Messiah is coming to YOU! Get ready! Don't wait for someone else to do it for you!"



What are these children ready for?  
How do we get ready for God's Kingdom?