

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

## CATECHUMENATE SESSION: DISCERNMENT

Third Sunday of Advent • Year B • December 17, 2023

Loving God,  
John the Baptist  
spent his life  
pointing the way to you.

Help us to point the way to you  
by being examples of your love—  
praying,  
doing works of justice,  
and sharing your peace and love  
with all we meet.

Amen.



### Sunday Word

**Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11**

**Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

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

The above readings are available at  
[usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings).

### To Help You Remember



1. Many people came out to the desert to hear John the Baptist preach.
2. John the Baptist told them to prepare the way of the Lord.
3. The people did not recognize that Jesus was in their midst.

## Key Teachings



### Questioning

People kept asking John the Baptist who he was and what he had to say for himself. He answered that he was not the Christ. His task was to point the way to Christ.

### Choosing the Right Path

The right path is the way to Christ and the way of Christ. Baptism sets us on the path. As we continue our journey, prayer, the Word of God, the sacraments, and Church teaching help us discern how to stay on the path to God.

## Faith Words



### discern

To discern is to be able to judge wisely or to make wise choices.



### examination of conscience

An examination of conscience helps us look at the decisions we have made and how we have lived according to God's Laws.

## Bambinelli



On the third Sunday of Advent, it is the custom for children in Rome to bring the Christ Child figure from their home Nativity sets to Saint Peter's Square. The pope then blesses their figures, which are called *bambinelli* (baby Jesus).

## With My Family



### We Listen

For the second week, we have heard about John baptizing with water. And twice we hear John the Baptist point away from himself and toward Jesus. Jesus is always the central focus in the Gospel. Jesus is the light that John is not.

### We Believe

We believe in the power of Baptism. We believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ Jesus through his Death and Resurrection.

### We Live As Disciples

Disciples learn how to discern the voice of Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to recognize Jesus' voice. Your fellow disciples will help you discern how God is working in your life and how Jesus is calling you. At some point in your journey, others will help you discern whether you are ready for the Sacraments of Initiation.

### We Pray

The third Sunday of Advent is often called Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is a Latin word that means "Rejoice!" As you light the pink candle of the Advent wreath, say "Rejoice in the Lord!" and invite everyone gathered to name a gift from God that brings them joy.



## Do You Recognize These Voices?

We hear lots of important and inspiring voices in the Bible.  
Match the person on the left with the quote from the Bible.  
Draw a line from the person's name to the Scripture quote that matches.  
It may be helpful to read each Scripture passage to help you match the name to the voice.



**Jesus**

“Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”  
*(Mark 16:1-3)*

**Mary, the  
Mother of God**

“This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”  
*(Mark 1:15)*

**King David**

“I baptized with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me . . .” *(John 1:26-27)*

**John the Baptist**

“Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands.” *(Isaiah 64:7)*

**Isaiah**

**Mary Magdalene,  
Mary the Mother  
of James, and  
Salome**

“May the God of peace make you perfectly holy . . .”  
*(1 Thessalonians 5:23)*

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.” *(Luke 1:38)*

**Paul**

“Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!”  
*(2 Samuel 7:1-2)*