

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

MISSIONARIES OF CHRIST



The good news of this second Sunday of Advent is that **God has an immense desire to save us.** He doesn't just call us from afar. He sends messengers who are His close ones. These messengers of God have the mission of proclaiming Christ. Throughout this Advent season, we are invited to welcome His word and allow ourselves to be transformed by it. The Lord expects from us a response that matches **The Passionate Love** He has for us.

Isaiah addresses people living through a difficult situation. The population has suffered from war with neighboring countries. They have been humiliated and weakened by several defeats. **But for God , nothing is ever truly lost.** In the name of His Faith, the prophet responds. For Him, **the only True King is God.** These words of Isaiah resonate with us in our world today. Many Christians suffer persecution. The 20th century saw a great number of martyrs. And this continues today. Others suffer from the indifference in which they are immersed. In his Letter to the Romans (Second Reading), Saint Paul invites us to take a further step. He reminds Christians how they should respond to God's free initiative in Jesus Christ. He emphasizes three fundamental imperatives: Meditating on the Scriptures, Living in unity, and practicing mutual welcome.

The Gospel tells us about another messenger of God: **John the Baptist**, the last prophet of the Old Testament, **the one who directly announced the coming of the Messiah.** His preaching took place in the Judean Desert. When one goes on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, this is where one begins. The desert is the place of conversion. The question is not whether to go to the Judean Desert or the Sahara. Going to the desert is a way of saying that one wants to withdraw from the noise of the world and the demands of advertising. We choose to strip ourselves of all superficial things to retain only what is essential.

It is in these acts of Love and sharing that we recognize the presence and action of the Holy Spirit. They are the sign that God is already among us. We too are invited to welcome Him and all our brothers and sisters. On this day, John the Baptist directs us to the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. **Through this baptism, He gives us an extraordinary strength for renewal and re-creation**, capable of seizing even the greatest sinners and making them Saints. This fire spoken of in the Gospel is **the fire of LOVE that is in God.** By following You, Lord Jesus, **we are immersed in the LOVE of God.** It is better than the sacrifices of the Old Covenant. May this Eucharist allow us to share this joy with all those around us. AMEN.

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – December 7, 2025
