The Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 9th, 2018

This Week's Edition:
Deliverance is Coming

“EVERY VALLEY WILL BE FILLED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW.”
LUKE 3:5

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For fifteen years Emperor Tiberius had rules that part of the world, and Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests. At that time God spoke to Zechariah’s son John, who was living in the desert.

So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, “Turn back to God and be baptized! Then your sins will be forgiven.”

Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said, “In the desert someone is shouting, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him! Fill up every valley and level and crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads. Then everyone will see the saving power of God.’”

Gospel Reflection

I wonder how God spoke to John the Baptist in the desert...

I wonder how people felt when John told them to change their lives and be baptized...

I wonder how I can help “fill in the valleys” and “make the mountains small” in order to make the path straight for Jesus...
DID YOU KNOW?

When the gospel talks about filling valleys and shrinking mountains, it's not asking us to pick up a shovel or some dynamite. The gospel uses valleys to represent people who are "lowly" (e.g., the poor/unpopular). When God comes, the 'valleys' will be raised, and everyone will realize that the "lowly" are just as important as everyone else. The gospel uses mountains to represent people who think they are better than everyone. When God comes, the 'mountains' will be made small since they will realize that all people are created equal.

Instructions:

In the top box, draw a “valley being filled in”.
(e.g. a poor man being made the guest of honour, or an unpopular person being invited to play)

In the bottom box, draw a “mountain being made low”.
(e.g. a king helping the servants sweep his palace, or Pope Francis washing the feet of prisoners)
Create Your Own Manger

First, create and design a tiny manger (out of a cardboard box/plastic container), and place this manger in a place of honour in your family’s home.

Straw for the Manger:

Each member of the family may place a piece of straw or yellow yarn in the crib each night for every kind act he/she did during the day. You could also place pieces of straw/yellow yarn in the manger for each intentional prayer.

During this season of Advent, try and fill the crib to welcome the Christ child with many kind words, good deeds, and loving prayers.