

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
December 6, 2020**

PREPARE



The message of this Second Sunday of Advent is: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." The previous Sunday served to awaken and to launch our invitation to vigilance, because the Lord has come, comes and will come again. Today, the Word of God invites us to take action: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus: the definitive coming at the end of time and, until then, it is a preparation to celebrate his first coming in the history of mankind, "becoming man." While celebrating this event every year, it is always a good idea to come up with new strategies for remembering and reliving it again. We should not

make us fall into the temptation of routine, that is, "this is how it has always been done."

Three individuals stand out as examples to following our as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The Prophet Isaiah announces the promise from God, of a Messiah who will do justice and inaugurate a new time for humanity. The gospel presents us with the figure and message of John the Baptist. It is a very clear and concise message. It is a figure that challenges and provokes us. The figure of Mary appears prominently at the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

The three played an important role in the Messiah's first coming. Isaiah was the prophet who most eagerly announced to Israel the coming of the Anointed of God, encouraging the people to prepare for this event. John the Baptist was the forerunner, the last of the prophets, who preached the conversion of the heart to the immediate coming of Christ. Mary was the one who welcomed into her womb the incarnate Son of God, giving birth to the Savior of the World.

Attentively at your service in our Lord,

Father John Carlos