

## Second Sunday of Advent.

### Prepare the Way of the Lord

**My Dear Friends,**

As we enter the holy season of Advent, the Church invites us once again to “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths.” God is offering us His most precious gift—His Son—but He also asks that our hearts be ready, cleansed, and open to receive Him fully.

John the Baptist, the messenger crying out in the desert, reminds us that authentic preparation is spiritual. In our busy modern world, it is easy to be swept up by decorations, gatherings, and the joyful pace of the season. While these moments bring warmth and community, they can never replace the deeper readiness God desires from us.

John calls us to look within, to set aside whatever distracts us from God, and to renew our commitment to Him. Saint Paul urges us to focus on what is “true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable—excellent or praiseworthy” (Philippians 4:8). Such a focus opens our hearts to the One who comes with the Holy Spirit and with fire—bringing wisdom, understanding, and peace.

The first step on this path is repentance. As Fr. Richard Fairchild beautifully reminds us, repentance is not only sorrow for sin but a deliberate choice to live differently—a choice that creates room for Christ to dwell more deeply within us. The Sacrament of Confession is a powerful gift in this process. Through it, God restores our souls, reconciles us to Himself, and renews our hearts with His grace.

When we prepare our hearts for Jesus, our lives naturally begin to bear fruit. We listen attentively to God’s Word, turn away from sin, receive His forgiveness, and allow His peace to fill us. Advent is a time to reflect and ask ourselves: What gift will I offer Christ this Christmas?

Prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His paths.

May God bless you abundantly this Advent Season!

Fr. Vilaire Philius

