



# Talktime with Sr. J

*Second Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 3:1-12*

December 4, 2016

Dear Friend,

The word that seems to pop out in today's Gospel is repent. It is a word that we hear often during the seasons of Advent and Lent. We may not like the word and if that is so, perhaps we need to spend time reflecting on its meaning.

We often hear that it means turning away from sin, and since we are all sinners we are going to struggle with a win-win solution. Maybe we need to look at it from the angle of aiming for a life that is more fruitful, thinking more positively, and acting and speaking with greater patience and charity.

We were given the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us make the choice to insert them into our daily life - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - they are each a powerful means of changing our lives.

As we look around the world it is very evident that a wake-up call is not just audible, it is visible. What are we waiting for?

Let us not spend time pointing and talking about others and their faults, but rather, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts so that we may see our own limitations and have the courage to re-focus and aim for a life with greater charity and prayer for ourselves and the world.

Peace,

Sr. J.



# Talktime with Sr. J

***Third Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 11:2-11***

December 11, 2016

Dear Friend,

Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news given to them. The phrase may easily be overlooked. What is Jesus telling us? Listen to what you hear and look at what you see.

Our God did not want to be discovered in the great and spectacular happenings; he wanted to be seen in service. He would be helping others. The life of Jesus calls us to be of service to all. John the Baptist was a man of prayer and sacrifice, and he had his doubts regarding Jesus. He still wondered who He was. We too are like the Baptist; we doubt, question, and wonder.

The spectacular is not always visible. We are challenged to *look* within our own selves and *see*. Are our spiritual eyes beginning to discover Christ within and without? Do we begin to see that in spite of our sinfulness and stumbling we are taking baby steps along a straight line, making better choices? Have we begun to realize that our souls have been damaged by sin and that healing is taking place and that prayer has a rightful place in our day? Are we coming to the realization that our deaf ears are now opening to the Word? Do we realize that we are being raised from the dead because we are forgiven and can forgive others?

Let us pray that we discover the miracles with our own selves.

Peace,

Sr. J.



# Talktime with Sr. J

***Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 1:18-24***

December 18, 2016

Dear Friend,

Most of us know that Joseph has been described as a just and upright man. After reading today's Gospel we are invited to think about what is hidden in this brief description. It does not appear that Joseph acted hastily in judging or reacting with anger or any other negative behavior. He had to be hurt and surely did not understand the course of events, and he took it to prayer.

His struggle had to be agonizing and his love for Mary and his desire to not expose her to shame had to have been heartbreaking. Being a man of prayer and trust God sent an angel to reassure him to take Mary into his home as his wife.

Joseph was a typical human person with no supernatural knowledge, just like each of us. Like him, are we willing to trust and believe in God's promises to us? When life sends us surprises that knock us off balance, are we still willing to believe and surrender it all to God?

If we are honest we fall short. Yes, we worry and it is very important that we keep in mind that ***"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength."*** (***Corrie Ten Boom***) At times it is difficult to trust, yet we need to make the effort. We need to believe that God will provide for all our needs. Fear will creep in and we need to sweep or kick it out.

In our daily battles and misunderstandings, let us strive to learn trust in God alone and remain in His Heart. Reflecting on Joseph's struggle and confusion, we need to turn to God and trust only in God.

Peace,

Sr. J.



# Talktime with Sr. J

*Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day*  
*John 1:1-18*

December 25, 2016

Dear Friend,

St. John the Evangelist tells us that God the Father's creative word made it possible for Jesus to be that life-giving Word that comes down to earth in a human body. So we call Jesus the life-giving Word. Although He came as a newborn Baby He remained truly God. He chose to become one of us.

This choice was a magnificent gift of love. Because Adam and Eve failed their test of obedience and so many generations of peoples lived sinful lives, God realized that we needed help and a good example of how to live our lives in service of others. Jesus, the Son of God, chose to come to earth and show us how to live better lives and to obtain our salvation, making it possible to be forgiven and live forever in heaven.

He became one of us and suffered like one of us. In fact, because Jesus was Love in human form He experienced the intensity of pain more than we do. He chose to do nothing to numb his pain. (Some of us use chemicals and other substances to dull pain.) What Love!

This same Jesus, the Messiah, was born in poverty in Bethlehem, and came in in such a totally unexpected way that it was the simple and poor who recognized and accepted Him while the so called wise and prudent rejected Him.

Today, many in the world can begin to comprehend through Jesus' birth that "power is borne of weakness, strength of humility, and the meek will inherit the earth." (Matt. 5)

May peace reign in our hearts!

Peace,

Sr. J.

