

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers toward children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare people fit for the Lord." (Luke 1:13-17)

**Reflection:** Luke tells the beautiful story of John the Baptist who came to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. Have I "prepared the way" in the heart of a loved one or acquaintance for Jesus' coming? Have I been a "John?"

**Advent Action:** In a card or letter, tell someone how much you care for them. Let them know they are loved by you – and God.

**Prayer:** O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them that trust Your mighty power to save and give them victory o'er the grave.

