**Grade 6, 7, 8 Make-Up**

**Sunday, December 3/Monday, December 4**

Please submit thoughtful answers to the numbered items below ***in an email*** to

[rburbrink@saint-max.org](mailto:rburbrink@saint-max.org) within 2 weeks of the missed class.

***Time with the Gospel***

***Especially during this time of the year, we are inundated with consumer messages from retail advertisers trying to influence shoppers who are buying gifts for the holidays. During Advent, we try to focus on a different message by reflecting on the example of John the Baptist when considering how to “prepare the way of the Lord” in our own lives.***

1. At this time of year, we see lots of advertising trying to get our attention and influence our shopping habits. Name strategies that stores use to attract attention and influence people as they shop for the holidays.
2. How have these strategies influenced your shopping?

***These messages can have a powerful influence on us, especially as we get ready for Christmas. The Gospels we hear at Mass during Advent call us to pay attention to a different message as we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts. In this Sunday’s Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist and his message to “prepare the way of the Lord.”* (Isaiah 40:3***)****Read Mark 1:1-8.***

1. What is the work of a prophet? What is the work of a Gospel writer?
2. Why do you think Mark begins his Gospel, the first to be written, by remembering Isaiah’s words?
3. What about John the Baptist might have caught people’s attention?
4. What did John the Baptist want people to do?
5. John the Baptist’s appearance and his message of repentance caught people’s attention. Then he told them the most important thing. What did he say?

***During Advent, we affirm John’s message by “prepare[ing] the way of the Lord” in our own lives. We seek forgiveness for our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and look for ways in which we can be better followers of Jesus. In our words and actions, we hope to be like John the Baptist in leading others to Jesus.***

1. In what ways can we “prepare the way of the Lord” in the world today?

***Conclude by praying the psalm for this Sunday, Psalm 85, praying with confidence that we will hear God’s message of salvation, justice, and peace and announce it to others.***

***Beyond the Gospel***

1. At what points in your life do you find yourself turning to God-when you are sad, happy, anxious, hopeful?
2. How does prayer and Eucharist keep you close to God?
3. Read and summarize this article, <https://lifeteen.com/blog/finding-the-heart-of-god-in-advent/>, in 5 – 8 sentences.