Final exams are upon us! For some of you this is just the beginning. For others this is the beginning of the end. For the freshmen who are making your first trip down this arduous, long and probably stressful road, remember that once you finish this week you’re done. Well, done for about a month. In some ways this time in the academic calendar is a lot like Advent. Advent’s a time for prayer and reflection; it’s a time to prepare for Christmas. Advent literally means the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.

As students getting ready for exams we’re preparing to test our knowledge that we’ve learned in the past months.

Today’s Gospel talks of John the Baptist’s preparation for the coming of Jesus. John lived a basic, but dedicated life. He clothed himself in camel hair garments, and ate locusts and wild honey. His life’s calling was to prepare the way for Jesus. The way he clothed and sustained himself was a way to keep himself focused; to keep himself from getting distracted.

So, as we’re entering finals week let us use the example set by John the Baptist and live simply this week. Let’s not fill ourselves with unnecessary distractions, and stay focused. Good luck on finals, and may the odds be ever in you favor.