

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

November 29, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

I pray that you and your families had a blessed Thanksgiving, and this weekend, as we finish up the leftovers and scour stores and the internet for the best deals, and start our preparations for Santa's arrival, we are in fact beginning the Church's "New Year" with the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is from a Latin word that means "coming." In reality, Advent is about preparing for two comings. The First, of course, is preparing to remember Our Blessed Savior's first coming over 2000 years ago on that very first Christmas. The second coming that we are preparing for is just that, the Second Coming when He will appear in Glory with His Angels and Saints.

There are many good customs associated with Advent. Maybe the most important is the Advent Confession. We have confessions every Saturday 8:00 - 8:30 AM and 3:15 - 3:45 PM. We will also have Advent Confessions on Thursday, December 17 from 4:00 - 5:00 PM and 7:00 -8:00 PM. We are hoping to have several additional Confessors for that Thursday afternoon and evening to hear your confessions and dispense God's mercy and forgiveness.

Another important Advent Custom is the Advent Wreath. We are so blessed to have such a beautiful Advent Wreath in our church. An Advent Wreath is something that we can also have in our homes. There are many ideas on the internet about how to make one with our children and grandchildren, and there is so much symbolism in the Advent Wreath that we can share with them.

We know that the candles of the Advent Wreath helps us to count the weeks until Christmas and the First Coming of Christ Our Light into the world. Purple is a "penitential" color and so the purple candles remind us of the need to confess our sins. The pink candle is for Gaudete Sunday, a reminder to rejoice for soon Our Savior will come. The greens used to make up the wreath are a reminder of everlasting life, since they hold their color. The round shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, is also a reminder of immortality and God's everlasting love for us. The red berries that some people add to the wreath and the prickliness of the greens are a reminder that we are saved through the Precious Blood of Our Savior.

To further help us enter into Advent, we are including an Advent Wreath Daily Prayer in this week's e-newsletter. We are also including an instruction for St. Cyril of Jerusalem on the "Two Comings of Christ" and the readings for the First Sunday of Advent.

Let us continue to pray our Rosaries and Chaplets for an end of the pandemic, for the sick, for the deceased, for first responders, and for the day when will all be back together again.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J Pawelko



Advent Wreath Daily Prayer by Fr. Henry Nouwen to be prayed as we light our wreath each night

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory be to the Father.....



From the Instructions to Catechumens by St Cyril of Jerusalem The twofold coming of Christ

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.* At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgement he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: *You did these things, and I was silent.*

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity.

The prophet Malachi speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple:* that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.*

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: *The grace of God the Saviour has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.* Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: *He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.



Sunday Mass Readings

First Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: [Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7](#)

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19](#)

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

► O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us. **R.**

► Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong. **R.**

► May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name. **R.**

Reading 2: [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

► Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: [Mark 13:33-37](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”



Giving Tuesday is a global day of charity held on the first Tuesday following the popular shopping days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

This Tuesday, December 1st is Giving Tuesday. Let us kick off the holiday season by bringing us together, giving thanks, and giving back. There are many worthy charities from which to choose, but if you wish, we are raising money towards some of our parish expenses like tree removal, security cameras, improvements, etc.



Tree Removal



Security Cameras



Improvements

Any donations small or large is greatly appreciated. Please go to:

<https://www.parishgiving.org/index?e=8DA4EE202BB0D826941DE43DC1EDD745D98084D34C3C13151C76D00924862FEC10AB9128F748AD39&type=dpl>

to make your donation.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

