

this week ...

**We Construct PEACE.  
We want to see!**

*Second Sunday of  
Advent*



*San Ignacio de Loyola Parish*

*December 7, 2014*

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**J**ohn the Baptist prepared “the way of the Lord” by calling the people to repentance so they would not be “thrown into the fire” of “the coming wrath”. John announced impending judgment and offered a baptism of repentance. John also announced One to come who would enable that judgment and bring a baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire. The fire of judgment will destroy those who are fruitless; the fire of the Spirit will help the faithful bear good fruit. **Advent is, in the end, about jumping into the fire.**



**Words to reflect upon:**

***the fire of judgment, the fire of the Spirit***

**God grant us peace in the world.**

**God grant us peace in our own hearts.**

**Help us to see you in others.**

**Especially, help us to see You in our enemies  
and those we dislike. Amen.**

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,  
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,  
1 Timothy 2:1*

**LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY** for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Fr. Vega, Fr. Talbot, **Maggie Maziarz**, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Carola Murray and Peter Fiorito. *Let us continue to pray together as a community for the growth of peace, especially in the Middle East, Syria, Iraq and Turkey through the collaboration of all people of good will to end violence and promote justice and peace.*



## BECOMING AN ADVENT PERSON

### **Advent: Gestating Hope Into Reality (II)**

Hope is believing in the promise of God and believing that God has the power to fulfill that promise. What is that promise? God has promised that history (our private histories, our communal history, and cosmic history) will one day come together in an ecstatic oneness, a heaven, a paradise, a community of life around Christ and in God within which there will be no tears and no death. This will not be a community of life focused on “food and drink” but one that takes its very breath from love, justice, peace, friendship, affection and shared delight in a common spirit, the Holy Spirit.

— Fr. Ron Rolheiser

*Isaiah 11: 6-9*

*The lion shall lie down  
with the lamb ... and  
there shall be no harm  
or ruin on all my holy  
mountain; for the earth  
shall be filled with  
knowledge of the Lord.*



— a love poem from God —

### **Beautiful Creature**

Love is a beautiful creature living  
in a hole you have dug  
so at night I set fruit and grains and little pots of wine  
and milk beside your soft earthen mounds,  
and I often sing to you,  
but still, my dear, you do not come out.  
I have fallen in love with someone  
who is hiding inside of you.  
We should talk about this problem,  
otherwise I will never leave you alone!

Hafiz

## LIVING ADVENT DEEPLY

**Advent** is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

**Advent** reminds all of us that we are people who can hope against hope, and need not be submerged by a culture of fear of terrorism that justifies violence in our name. This is an expectation we can hold even though the grim scenes of war are on our television screens each day. War and preparing for war will cease only when we decide to follow the path the **Prince of Peace** shows us.

People in sorrow or depression suffer an impoverishment of imagination. They simply cannot imagine a world different from the one in which they are living. **Advent** is a time to stir in us new visions, to awaken in us what is possible.

**Advent** is a time that reminds us that even with a shaken faith, we can foster great hope and plant those seeds that may blossom into a future we might never see, but our children will. Remember, God is the promise-maker and the promise-keeper.



## Praying With Scripture

### Gospel Mark 1:1-8

1. Compare the statement of John the Baptist, I am, as Isaiah prophesied: *"a voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"* (John 1:23), with Pope Francis' statement below:

*My mission of being in the heart of the people ... is not an "extra" or just another moment in life. Instead, it is something I cannot uproot from my being without destroying my very self. I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing. All around us we begin to see nurses with soul, teachers with soul, politicians with soul, people who have chosen deep down to be with others and for others.* *Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 273*

2. How do you share John the Baptist's mission to proclaim Christ's coming into the world? Do you do this with words or by the way you live? How is John's message of repentance and judgment different from Jesus'? — Anne Osdieck

## An Advent Reflection on Violence

The **San Juan Star** newspaper published a full page article entitled "American society on the razor's edge"



in 1989 in which, among other things, it reported "It's a hardball society. There's a readiness to strike back. You know, Don't get mad—get even". An article entitled "Why Has American Society Become So Violent?" was published in *America Magazine* by Edward T. Oakes, S.J. in 1992. An article in *The National Catholic Reporter* in 1996, entitled "Astounding cruelty afoot on this earth" commented

that "books, articles, reveal taboo against killing is being broken down". We have only to read the "collateral damage" statistics from the U.S. decades of wars to know that that has certainly come to pass. November 4th, *El Nuevo Día* reported 14 murders the previous week end in Puerto Rico making a 2014 grand total of 564 such violent deaths—and the year is not over yet!

The same **San Juan Star** article from 1989 also cited a Syracuse University research study on aggression by Arnold Goldstein stating "violence has gone up in direct proportion to the decline of 'pro-social' behaviors: empathy, caring, sharing, altruism and cooperation." These are the very things that constitute our Living Our Paschal Mystery and that Pope Francis constantly emphasizes as constitutive of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**Clearly, something is definitely wrong. Somehow our Christian life and witness is not going as planned. Let's join forces in San Ignacio reflecting together on these issues as we prepare for the coming of The Prince of Peace. There cannot be a better time than Advent to commit to this.**

**We Hope.  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
COME!**