

**Lord, let me see
Your face!**

*First Sunday of
Advent*

San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

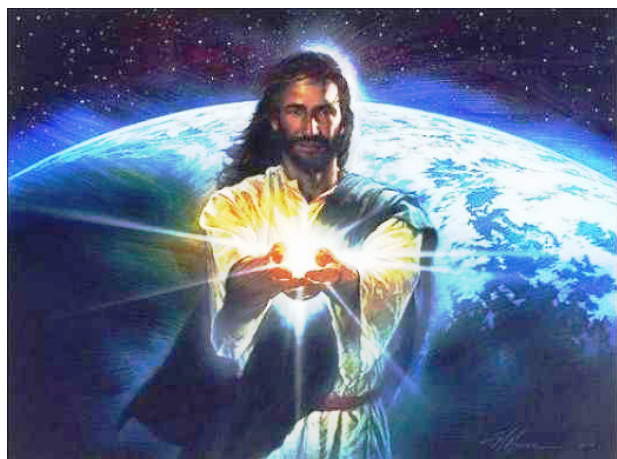
November 29, 2015



REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Love is a beautiful thing! We human beings can hardly be emotionally and spiritually healthy without it. But with what kind of love do the various media bombard us? All too often, it is a very selfish love, a love that satisfies one person at the expense of others. Selfishness is diametrically opposed to what love is. Selfishness is diametrically opposed to what holiness is. Today's Gospel does not seem to be about love—or about holiness. Yet, underneath Jesus' prediction of events at the end of time, he is telling us a love story.

At first reading, it seems as though the Gospel is only



about tribulations and calamities and fear. Yes, right now, today, tribulation, wars, natural calamities are upon us. We can cringe in fear of “stand erect” in hope. Jesus tells us not to fear what calamities might do to us, but to be “vigilant” for his coming. He comes with redemption not only in glory at the end of time, but right now, today. And here is where the love story is endlessly told—in Jesus' abiding Presence to us.

God's love story narrated to us through the divine Son Jesus Christ is not about the kind of love we might read in romance novels, but is a holy love emanating from God's very being. Holy Love is the opposite of selfish love. Holy Love is possible when there is a right relationship between God and us, measured by our right relationship with each other.

Words to reflect upon: he is telling us a love story

BECOMING AN ADVENT PEOPLE

What are the signs of our times and how ought we to read them? In order for the kingdom to come fully, we must address more forcefully those things which impede the kingdom—genocide, domination of one nation/one person over another, poverty, violence and abuse of all kinds. We begin this process of addressing the world's ills by addressing what is immediately at hand in our own lives.

The way we ought to live now is shaped by this particular time of the liturgical year, Advent, with its motif of joyful anticipation. During Advent we Christians wait for more than a day (Christmas); we await a Person—Jesus Christ. This Jesus invites us to live as he did—with care for others, with unselfish response to others' needs, with the kind of self-giving that draws people into a venue of joy and peace. When we live the Gospel well, the future is now. Our waiting is pregnant with life. That's nice waiting. That's becoming an Advent People.

Words to reflect upon: We await a person

**This week We Watch.
We want to see!**

**“Lord, open my lips and my mouth
shall declare your praise.”**

*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 and Albert Vega,
Fr. Vega, **Maggie Maziarz**, Rudy &
Sonia Méndez and Ritmo Aponte.
*Let us join as a community of faith
and together learn to hum hope
and dance the divine during this
beautiful season of Advent.*



— THE LITURGICAL CORNER

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year. The Gloria is not prayed in the liturgy. The liturgical color is purple, symbolizing reverent anticipation of the royal baby about to be born.

ADVENT GREETINGS

— from your Bulletin Editor

How I have looked forward to **Advent** this year! Every year as I am knee deep in Christmas wrappings and Christmas Tree ornaments and UTTER CONFUSION ...even when I'm swearing NEVER AGAIN! I am reminded why it is so significant to me ...and the word is HOPE...hope that is born again every year on the **First Sunday of Advent...**

I have been praying "Constant is my hope in you, oh Lord!" every day for a long time...but this last year, as the despair and the suffering kept increasing here in P.R. and in the world I tacked on "Increase my faith!" Like many others, I was hanging on by faith alone and by the skin of my teeth as my mother would say.

Much has been said about hope during these last several months, especially by Pope Francis. You cannot escape hearing it said. The whole world it seems has taken that one small word to its heart and it is repeated over and over again...in many languages and in many contexts... a thinking person cannot help but ponder the idea of HOPE...

What does it mean for me? For the world? For Government? For Peace??? As a Christian, why do I hope?

Fr. Vega preached one of his special homilies several years ago on the **1st Sunday of Advent** AND THERE IT WAS AGAIN! HOPE! defined as trust in the word of God! Could it really be that simple?

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE...

THE REASON **ADVENT** IS SO IMPORTANT EVERY YEAR!

Reminding us of our sins, our hope, our path...

We are called to REND OUR HEARTS—WITH JOY! contemplating a baby in a stable...

Now we are the ones called to be FAITHFUL...

It's our time to re-enter the path—to make ready to receive the grace of the Incarnation and the promise of PEACE...

To remember to hear the CALL to find Jesus in our lives Everywhere...to find him in all things and in all people... to MAKE HIM PRESENT TO A GREIVING WORLD!

SO, MY FRIENDS, TOGETHER—LET US PRAY!

PRAYING WITH ISAIAH DURING ADVENT

The words from the great Isaiah are our guide during **Advent**. His words are meant to console us and offer us hope. Though they were first meant to be God's word to a



people who "walked in darkness" they are still quite alive with meaning for us today. We can hear them personally. We can hear their prophetic hope in a future redemption that was fulfilled in Jesus. We can let these words challenge us to open our hearts. We can hear them helping us know and trust our God's love for us today. When we let them into our hearts—a phrase at a time—and chew them and let them nourish us, we can

let these words feed an **Advent** hope and longing within us.

These quotations are taken from the readings of the First Sunday of Advent. The references are to the full reading for that day.

Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?

Isaiah 63

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **Isaiah 2**

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! **Isaiah 2**

"CHRISTMAS is not meant to be simply a day of celebration; it is meant to be a month of contemplation. But because Advent has been lost somewhere between the Thanksgiving turkey and the pre-Christmas sales, we have lost one of the richest seasons of the year. Unless we can **reclaim Advent**, the lack of it will show clearly in the way we go through the rest of life itself."

— Sr. Joan Chittister

One way to "**reclaim**" the contemplative aspect of **Advent**, which the Church in her Wisdom and Mercy has provided for us, is to make a weekly visit to our **Adoration Chapel**. It is the perfect place to make the "examen" or revision of life that St. Ignatius recommends. If you cannot make a permanent commitment, consider a **4-week Advent Commitment** to prayer and self-evaluation before **Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**.

Spiritual Practices for Advent

- * MAKE PEACE
- * SHOW LOVE
- * DO JUSTICE
- * SHOW MERCY
- * WORK HARD
- * BE PATIENT

