

First Sunday of Advent

Daily Prayer

It seems like a contradiction, but it becomes easy to stay focused during Advent. There are many distractions at this time of the year, we seem to get very busy, and at times have to go to a number of parties and social events. But, the heart of this season is all about expectant hope. So, we begin our Advent journey by giving ourselves some time to reflect this week on how much God promises us.

Each morning, while we are first coming to consciousness, we can focus for just a few moments, to name a desire, to name an emptiness or feeling of anxiety or worry. It is into places just such as these that our Lord came to be with us. So, this week, we can begin to invite our Lord to be Incarnate in our lives, in the places we need him the most.

Our goal this week is to let ourselves feel like those to whom the promises of our God are made. We want to get in touch with ourselves, especially those parts of ourselves that are in need of a Savior. We do this by keeping our focus on the places that feel like a desert, the places that feel like we've been through a war, the places that feel like a lifeless stump. When we have a hard time seeing, we ask for the grace to be able to believe the promise that we shall see. When we seem deaf, we place our trust in the One who assures us that we will hear. And when we feel beaten down and awfully lowly, we turn to the One who promises that we will "find joy in the Lord." And, who among us doesn't have days on which we are aware of various kinds of wounds? On the day of promise, "the Lord binds up the wounds of his people."

As we let these deep realities of our daily, busy lives come into focus and interact with the readings, something wonderful happens. We become more and more aware of our need for God. Very naturally and quite spontaneously, a prayer comes forth from deep within us, which we can say in the smallest moments of our busiest days. "Come, Lord." "Come and save me." "Come and be with me in all of these messy, empty, dry and disordered places in my life." "Come, Lord. I feel my longing for you grow. I feel my hope grow. And, as I place my hope in your promises, Advent begins to come alive in me."

All of this preparation can happen in the simplest way, before the first Christmas decoration goes up. And, for each moment of each day that we encounter a place that we desire, that we long for our Lord's coming, we can express our thanksgiving. Each night we might pray: *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?* (Ps. 27)

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/A2-AD-01.html>

Reflection

This coming Sunday, as we celebrate the First Sunday of the season of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. This year we will use the "A" cycle of readings, which means that our Gospel readings will be taken primarily from the Gospel of Matthew.

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus tells his disciples that "*As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*" In essence Jesus is saying that people will be doing normal everyday things when the end comes. He sums up his comments by saying: "*So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*" Clearly Jesus was reminding his followers that they are not to live as did the people of Noah's time, thinking only of their present comfort and happiness, and giving no thought to the future. Rather, we are to stay awake and be prepared for no one knows when the Son of Man will return, or when one's own life will end.

Our first reading this Sunday is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. In this reading Isaiah offers comfort and hope to the people of Israel who are under threat from their enemies. In this reading Isaiah reminds the people that if they are true to their covenant with God, "*many peoples shall come and say: 'Come let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths.'*"

Our second reading this Sunday is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans. It probably was written somewhere between 55 – 60 AD, and reflects the common thinking at that time that the second coming of Jesus was imminent. Paul says: "*You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For your salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*"

Questions for Reflection/Discussion

1. It is easy to become lulled into thinking only of our comfort in the present moment and to forget about being prepared for the Lord's coming. What is one concrete thing you could do to keep better focused on being prepared for the Lord's coming?
2. Priests of our Archdiocese are asked to do advance planning for our funerals. It is an interesting experience. If you knew the end of your life was approaching what would you do to plan for it?
3. How would you respond to someone who claimed the return of the Lord was near?

<https://www.mary.org/blog/201911/thoughts-readings-1st-sunday-advent-2020#.Xd67Rm5FyUk>

Misas de Aguinaldo

Los coordinadores de las *Misas de Aguinaldo* son las siguientes comunidades:

- 16 de dic.: Comunidad Misa de las 8am domingo;
- 17 de dic.: Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola
- 18 de dic.: Comunidad Misa de las 5:30p domingo
- 19 de dic.: Academia San Ignacio de Loyola
- 20 de dic.: Comunidad Misa de las 5:30p sábado
- 21 de dic.: Com. Misa de las 11:30am domingo
- 22 de dic.: Community 9:30am Mass Sunday
- 23 de dic.: Comunidad 10:30am domingo Jardines
- 24 de dic.: Consejos Pastoral y Económico
- Misas de semana: 6am; de fin de semana: 8am

RETIROS

Durante el Adviento, tendremos tres tandas de los *Ejercicios Espirituales de 7-Días*.

Orientación: domingo, 1 de diciembre a la 1:30pm
domingo, 8 de diciembre a la 1:30pm
domingo, 15 de diciembre a la 1:30pm

¿Dónde?: Centro Parroquial

Ejercicios Espirituales en la Vida Diaria:

Hasta ahora, tenemos dos grupos comenzando:

Grupo Avanzado: martes, 26 de noviembre a las 9am

Grupo Normal: martes, 26 de noviembre a las 7pm

¿Dónde?: Centro Parroquial

Favor de llamar a la Oficina Parroquial si se interesa en seguir los *Ejercicios*, pero no pueden asistir a una de las reuniones o si no le conviene la hora.

Calendario Breve

- Rezo del Santo Rosario media hora antes de las dos misas diarias de lunes a sábado.
- Guerreros de la Oración ofrecen una reflexión los lunes de 4 a 4:45pm en el Templo. El lunes, 2 de diciembre habrá una reflexión de Adviento, nuestra Madre María esperando a su niño Jesús.
- Estudios Bíblicos los lunes a las 7:30pm en el la biblioteca de la Academia San Ignacio de Loyola.
- Círculo de Oración los jueves 7pm en la Capilla del Templo.
- El Ministerio del Sagrado Corazón se reúne los primeros viernes de mes para la misa de 8:00am en el Templo.
- La Cofradía de Nuestra Señora del Carmen se reúne el primer sábado de mes a las 7:30am en el Templo.
- La Comunidad de la Misa dominical de las 8:00am invita a su **desayuno comunitario** el tercer domingo de mes al finalizar la Misa. Próximo desayuno será el **15 de diciembre**.

ANUNCIOS PARROQUIALES

- El 30 de noviembre comienza el proyecto “**Arboles de la Esperanza**”. Este año los beneficiarios serán el **Instituto Psicopedagógico de PR** y la **Fundación Modesto Gotay**. Cada adorno tendrá el nombre del participante y el donativo por un lado, con el nombre de la institución por el otro. Favor de tomar un adorno del árbol y devuélvelo con el regalo que escogiste y colócalo bajo el árbol.
- La **venta de artículos religiosos de Belén** será este fin de semana después de las Misas.
- El próximo **Taizé** será el miércoles, 4 de diciembre a las 7pm en el Templo.
- La **próxima Noche de Película** será el viernes, **6 de diciembre** a las 7pm y se ofrece la película “**Life for Life**”. Traigan algo para compartir.
- Tendremos un **Triduo a la Inmaculada Concepción** en preparación para la Fiesta los días **6, 7 y 8** de diciembre después de la Misas diarias y del domingo.
- El **Consejo Pastoral** se reunirá el sábado, 7 de diciembre a las 9am en el Centro Parroquial. Se solicita la asistencia de representantes de cada ministerio
- El próximo **Taller de Discernimiento** será el sábado, **7 de diciembre** a las 4:00pm en el Cafetorium de la Academia San Ignacio. Recurso: Padre Larry.
- La próxima reunión de los candidatos de la **Confirmación** y de **RICA** será el domingo, 8 de diciembre a la 4pm en el Centro Parroquial.
- La **Pastoral de la Salud** y la **Cofradía Carmelitana** auspician una charla sobre la **Inmaculada Concepción**. El lunes, 9 de diciembre a las 9am en el Templo. El recurso es el P. Larry.
- Habrá un **Compartir Navideña** el sábado, 14 de diciembre desde las 6:30pm hasta las 11pm en el Cafetorium de la ASI. Detalles seguirán más adelante.
- El martes, **24 de diciembre** se ofrecerá una Misa en **ingles** a las **8pm** y la Misa de Noche Buena a las **10:30pm** en el Templo.
- El miércoles, **25 de diciembre** se ofrecerá una sola Misa a las **11:00am** en el Templo.

RECEMOS POR NUESTROS ENFERMOS

Ana Livia Otaño, Amaryllis Velilla,
María Consuelo (Chela) Longo,
Nancy y Emmanuel Vega, Teresita Colberg,
Rafael Martínez, niño Arturo Javier Alonso, Lisardo Batán

RECEMOS POR LOS RECIÉN FALLECIDOS

Carmen Ana Crespo Resto +

Favor de informarle a la Oficina Parroquial de los enfermos y de los fallecidos para que podamos anunciarlos en el boletín. Gracias.)