

Second Sunday of Advent

Daily Prayer

Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our busy lives begins with getting in touch with our own desires. Advent is a wonderful time to ask myself, "What am I looking for? What do I desire? What longing can I recognize in my heart?" The answers to those questions will be our best guide for daily prayer. The readings this week offer some possible ways to talk with the Lord about our desires.

We can begin by trying to get in touch with a part of my heart that is divided, perhaps with a desert separating the two parts. For example, is there a disconnect between my primary commitments and the amount of time and attention that I give to them? Is there a distance between who I say I am and who I actually am? Do I experience something missing between what I believe and how I live those beliefs? We all have these contradictions and inconsistencies within us. These are the places into which we can let our Advent desiring grow. This week, we can imagine the prophet saying, "There will be a path between what is separate or divided or at a distance in your life!" or "What is desert, barren, dry and life-less in you will come to life!" We can hear, "You will find freedom and comfort, where you have been finding yourself in a captivity to pattern and routine, where you have felt weak and weary." "Learn from the Lord and learn real wisdom."

When one or more of these desires really strikes a chord in our hearts, Advent begins for us. Each morning this week, we can turn to our God, when we first wake up, while in the shower or getting dressed, and simply ask: "Come, Lord. Come into this place, into this embarrassing place of need in my life." We may be able to be specific and ask, "Please, Lord, come and be with me and bring life and hope into my morning as I face this meeting." As we go to work or do laundry or shop, or head home from work, we might ask even more specifically for the grace to love - to take the liberating journey across the desert and let the Lord bring us home to a place of comfort, healing and peace.

Advent is about our coming to a felt sense of our need for a Savior and letting our Savior into our hearts to save us. Advent comes alive for us as we identify our desires and let them be expressed as longing and expectant hope. Into this space our Lord comes with good news, healing and a peace the world can't give. As we taste our desires and longing grow, we can give thanks each evening before we go to bed, to acknowledge we are being given a great grace of a growing intimacy with our God, right in the midst of our very busy days.

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/A2-AD-02.html>

Reflection

This Sunday we celebrate the Second Sunday of the season of Advent. Each year on the Second Sunday of Advent our Gospel reading presents us with the familiar figure of John the Baptist. This year we read Matthew's account of John's preaching. We are told that John's message was: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" Those who came out to hear John were the people around the region of the Jordan who "*were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.*" However, when "*he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers!'*" Clearly John, like Jesus who would follow him, saw the Pharisees and Sadducees as opposing rather than supporting his message.

It is also important to note that John clearly understood his roll vis-à-vis Jesus. He said: "*I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals.*"

Our first reading this Sunday is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. It is Isaiah's prophecy of a future King from the "*stump of Jesse.*" (Jesse was the father of King David.) The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon this future King: "*a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight will be the fear of the Lord.*" (If these words sound familiar they are what Catholics refer to as the "gifts of the Holy Spirit.")

Our second reading this Sunday is taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans. In it Paul asks that "*the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

1. I have always been impressed with John the Baptist's clarity in regard to his mission. How do you think he came to such clarity?
2. John describes himself as not being worthy to carry Jesus' sandals. How would you describe yourself in relation to Jesus?
3. As a child I had to memorize the gifts (as well as the fruits) of the Holy Spirit. I was always troubled by the gift of fear of the Lord. Someone then suggested that I substitute the words "wonder" or "awe" for fear. That made much more sense to me. How do we exhibit wonder or awe of God?

<https://www.mary.org/blog/201912/thoughts-readings-2nd-sunday-advent-2020#.XelaDm5FyUK>

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
"Midnight Mass": 8pm (with Carols at 7:30pm)
Misa de Gallo: 10:30pm
25 de diciembre: Una sola misa a las 11am

RETIROS

Durante el Adviento, quedan dos tandas de los *Ejercicios Espirituales de 7-Días*.

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

¿Dónde?: Centro Parroquial

Estos retiros consisten en la reunión de orientación el domingo del retiro, seguido de cinco días cuando se compromete a una reflexión de media hora diario y media hora con un acompañante a la hora y el lugar más convenientes para los dos. El retiro se termina con una reunión de cierre a la hora que el grupo decida en la reunión de orientación. Les sugerimos a todos los feligreses que consideren hacer este retiro ahora, en adviento, o en la cuaresma cuando se ofrecerán otras tandas.

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.
- Estudios Bíblicos los lunes a las 7:30pm en 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

- Ya comenzó 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 **próxima Noche de Película** será el viernes, **13 de diciembre** a las 7pm y se ofrece la película **"One Night with the King"**. 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.
- 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.
- Nuestro compartir navideño, **"A Taste of Christmas"** será el sábado, 14 de diciembre desde las 6:30pm hasta las 11pm en el Cafetorium de la ASI. Las taquillas estarán de venta después de las misas este fin de semana. Se pide un donativo de \$30 para cubrir los gastos. Se pide la asistencia de todos para que sea un éxito.
- La **Arquidiócesis de San Juan** les invita a la Ordenación Episcopal de Mons. Alberto Figueroa Morales el viernes, **27 de diciembre a las 11:00am** en la Iglesia Santa Teresita, Calle Loiza en Santurce. Se pide mucha oración por el nuevo obispo auxiliar, y la participación de todos en la celebración de su ordenación episcopal.

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

Moisés Almansa+

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