

First Sunday of Advent

My beloved brothers and sisters, all of us have been disappointed by the struggles of our daily lives. Often, things don't turn out the way we expect. Many times, promises are broken. We often face discouragement from our daily battles. The Good News of the Readings for today, is: God is always faithful to His promises, Always!

The Church gives us the time of Advent each year, as the beginning of the Church's new year. It begins with hope! It is the darkest time of the year: December 21st, will be the shortest day of the year. Many people suffer from a kind of depression called: SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder. And yet, into this darkest season, the Good News of the Gospel proclaims hope: God is always faithful to His promises! Wait for it with patience; but wait with calm assurance: God is always faithful to His promises! Jesus, the Divine Lord will come again in His glory, and the justice of God will prevail, evil will be vanquished, and those who love the Lord and live in the Lord, will flourish in His Glory! God is faithful to His promises!

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading, that our Good God did not abandon the human race after original sin. Nor does He abandon us! He is always awaiting the repentance and return of His prodigal children. God promised a Savior, and a Savior He sent to us in Jesus Christ, His own beloved Son. Jesus Who is God in the Flesh, has promised that He will return again to end our earthly exile, and to restore all things and bring His Divine Plan to completion. Just as in the Old Testament, which is a paradigm for God's action for His people, God promised that He would lead His beloved people out of exile in Babylon, and He did! He restored them to the Promised Land, and rebuilt His Temple. So too, our Good God in Jesus has promised His return. We await that fulfilment with eager joy. We anticipate it, prepare for it, we practice for it, keep vigil for it! That is the whole meaning of Advent!

This Advent, we are offering a series of Liturgical events to prepare our hearts for the Lord: Dec. 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception; Dec. 9th, a Day of Recollection, a mini-retreat starting at Dawn with the Rorate Caeli High Mass with

Confessions, an hour of retreat, and Brunch; on the 12th at 6:00 pm, probably at Powell, we will celebrate the Guadalupe Mass; every Advent Wednesday we will have Sung Vespers of Advent during Confessions from 6:30pm to 7:00 pm on the 6th, 13th and 20th. God is always faithful and He will fulfill His promises! Let us prepare our hearts and lives to receive them by renewing our spirits in preparation for Him, The Son of God, not only for Christmas, but for all time!