

# Bulletin Advent 01 Year A 2016

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Advent is the time of year we prepare for the coming of Jesus. To help prepare, make an Advent Wreath and put in your home. At dinner, pray the following.

Family Advent Dinner blessing and prayer:

In family practice the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. The wreath blessing is on the first Sunday.

**WREATH BLESSING:** A parent blesses the wreath:

O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who live and reigns forever. ALL AMEN.

**FIRST WEEK:** After grace, youngest child lights one purple candle. A family member prays; All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good, that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. ALL AMEN.

**SECOND WEEK:** After grace, light two purple candles. A family member prays; God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. ALL AMEN.

**THIRD WEEK:** After grace, light two purple candles and the rose. A family member prays; Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ALL AMEN.

**FOURTH WEEK:** After grace, light all four candles. A family member prays: Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ALL AMEN.

2. Sacraments: This week I anointed two people and took communion to three people. I blessed one house.

3. Around the Saint Paul Mission: Winter has set in. I flew to Clarks Point to give communion to some of the Catholics there and flew a practice instrument approach into Koliganek. I had to plug in my airplane. After landing in Koliganek, I flew over New Stu and took a picture out of the window.



## **HOMILY**

### Armor of Light

Our readings today are about preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus. Romans asks us to put on the Armor of Light.

People prepare for many things during life. We prepare for winter, vacation, college, marriage, and old age. A priest must prepare for Mass by clothing himself with an Alb, Cincture, Stole, and Chasuble. After each article of clothing is donned, a vesting prayer is recited.

**Alb:** The Alb gets its name from the Greek word alba, which means white and refers to the white garments of the newly baptized.

Alb Prayer: Purify me, O Lord, and cleanse my heart that, being washed in the Blood of the Lamb, I may enjoy everlasting happiness

**Cincture:** The Cincture is a symbol of chastity.

Cincture Prayer: Gird me, O Lord, with the cincture of purity and extinguish in my body the passion of lust, so that the virtues of chastity and continence ever remain within me.

**Stole:** The Stole is a symbol of the office of priesthood and symbolizes a yoke.

Stole Prayer: Restore to me, O Lord, the stole of immortality, which I lost in the fall of my first parent; and as I approach Your sacred mysteries, although unworthy, may I merit eternal joys.

**Chasuble:** The Chasuble is only worn during Mass. If a sacrament is performed outside mass, only a stole, not the chasuble, can be worn. A priest should never eat or drink when wearing a Chasuble, i.e. during a social gathering after mass.

Chasuble Prayer: O Lord, You once said, "My yoke is easy and My burden, light." Make me strong enough, I pray, to bear it in such a manner that I may obtain Your grace.

As Catholics we can cloth ourselves with spiritual armor to help prepare us when Jesus comes. Our armor of light consists of a belt, breastplate, foot gear, helmet, and sword.

Belt of Truth: We can cinch up the belt of truth to remind us that Jesus is Truth.

Breastplate of Justice: The Breastplate of Justice shields us against practices that try to try to take away our dignity. With our shields, no one can take away the fact that God made us in his image and likeness and will always love us.

Foot Gear of Zeal: Foot Gear of Zeal helps us be enthusiastic about doing God's Work.

Helmet of Salvation: God gave us the helmet of salvation. He gave us brains to learn the Way to salvation.

Sword of the Word: Our sword is the Word of God. With the word of God we can slice through evil to get us to the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

As you go through Advent, prepare yourselves for our Lord's coming. You can do that by arming yourselves with the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, The Foot Gear of Zeal, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Word (483 Words).

## **READINGS**

First Reading Is 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz,  
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
In days to come,  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest mountain  
and raised above the hills.  
All nations shall stream toward it;  
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."  
For from Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and impose terms on many peoples.  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation shall not raise the sword against another,  
nor shall they train for war again.  
O house of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
“We will go up to the house of the LORD.”

And now we have set foot  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Jerusalem, built as a city  
with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

In it are set up judgment seats,  
seats for the house of David.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May those who love you prosper!

May peace be within your walls,  
prosperity in your buildings.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Because of my brothers and friends

I will say, “Peace be within you!”

Because of the house of the LORD, our God,  
I will pray for your good.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

Brothers and sisters:

You know the time;

it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed;  
the night is advanced, the day is at hand.

Let us then throw off the works of darkness  
and put on the armor of light;

let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day,  
not in orgies and drunkenness,

not in promiscuity and lust,  
not in rivalry and jealousy.  
But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

Gospel Mt 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As it was in the days of Noah,  
so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.  
In those days before the flood,  
they were eating and drinking,  
marrying and giving in marriage,  
up to the day that Noah entered the ark.  
They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away.  
So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.  
Two men will be out in the field;  
one will be taken, and one will be left.  
Two women will be grinding at the mill;  
one will be taken, and one will be left.  
Therefore, stay awake!  
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.  
Be sure of this: if the master of the house  
had known the hour of night when the thief was coming,  
he would have stayed awake  
and not let his house be broken into.  
So too, you also must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

## **INTERCESSIONS**

### **Celebrant**

Ask and you shall receive, says the Lord. With confidence in our heavenly Father, let us pray for all our needs.

### **Lector**

That Christ may visit his holy Church and keep watch over it always, we pray to the Lord.

That Christ guide the minds of those who govern us to promote the common good according to his will, we pray to the Lord.

That communities support family life with safe housing, quality medical care, and good schools, we pray to the Lord.

That members of this assembly seek meaningful ways to prepare for the Lord's coming, we pray to the Lord.

For the confirmation sponsors, parents and catechists... that they always convey the beauty and strength of God's word and be good examples of discipleship.

For those who have died: That the Lord will welcome into the fullness of life all those who call upon his name, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....We pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant**

Creator God, show us your ways. Teach us your paths and guide us in your truth as we await in joyful hope the coming of your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.