

ADVENT 03 A DECEMBER 11, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Rosary will be decorating for Christmas after the 4th Advent mass. Please stay after to help out if you can! We have someone to cut down and set up the tree.

I have asked one of our teens to be our guest shepherd at the Christmas Mass. She has accepted. So, we will be interviewing a real life shepherd from the time of Jesus during the Mass!

Christmas Mass, Thursday, Dec. 22, 11:30 AM, Clarks Point
Christmas Mass, Christmas Eve, Saint Theresa, 4PM
Christmas Mass, Christmas Day, Holy Rosary, 10AM

I was able to thaw out the Cherokee Warrior II a couple times this week. I flew to Levelock and then over to Clarks Point.

HOMILY: Patience

Prop: Wrapped Christmas Gift

Growing up near the Oregon Desert there are droughts in the summer. My Uncle is an Alfalfa farmer. He uses water from an irrigation canal to water his crop. It seldom rains. The problem is there are unexpected thunder storms. If it rains on a cut crop of alfalfa, the crop is ruined.

For most farmers rain is a beautiful time that deserves rejoicing. Rain brings new life. In the letter from James, the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent.

Waiting for rain takes patience. During Advent each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry, and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then,

one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Quotes

Saint Francis De Sales: Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself.

German Proverb: Patience is a bitter plant but it has sweet fruit.

Saint Augustine: Patience is the companion of Wisdom

Advent teaches us to have patience while we are waiting for Christmas, the arrival of our savior.

Let me explain. Many of us have presents under a tree during Advent. Unfortunately, we all have to wait until that big day in order to open our presents. That is what Advent is like to Catholics.

Advent is about patiently waiting for the coming of our Savior. The people of the Old Testament patiently waited for him to be born at Christmas. We patiently wait for Jesus to come in our daily lives over and over again. We patiently wait for Jesus to come second time.

Advent reminds us that we want to be ready when that second coming comes. It tells us to live good lives, because any moment, it might be the right time for Jesus to come. So just as we patiently wait for Christmas day to come we must also patiently wait for Jesus to return.

When we live good lives, when we do all we can for the lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor, and anyone left for dead, we prepare ourselves for that unexpected time when Jesus comes again. When that happens, our patience will be rewarded and our waiting will be over because it will always be Christmas.

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us the baby Jesus to come and save us. Please give us the patience to await Jesus' return again to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen (469 Words).

READINGS

Third Sunday of Advent

Lectionary: 7

Reading 1 Is 35:1-6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.

They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are frightened:

Be strong, fear not!

Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. (cf. Is 35:4) Lord, come and save us.
or:

R. Alleluia.

The LORD God keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

R. Lord, come and save us.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.

R. Lord, come and save us.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations.

R. Lord, come and save us.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading 2 James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,
being patient with it
until it receives the early and the late rains.

You too must be patient.

Make your hearts firm,
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another,
that you may not be judged.

Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.

Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters,
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,

“Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?”

Jesus said to them in reply,

“Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off,

Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,

“What did you go out to the desert to see?

A reed swayed by the wind?

Then what did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in fine clothing?

Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.

Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you,

among those born of women

there has been none greater than John the Baptist;

yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant

Let us bring our needs and those of the world before the God who saves.

Deacon/Lector

We pray for all those who bear responsibility in the Church: that their lives may be shining examples of Christian charity and service, we pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who govern us, and who make and uphold our laws: that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

That our youth may learn the ways of God and become faithful disciples of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

That the sick may grow in faith and in health, we pray to the Lord.

For those who have died: that they be welcomed into the joys of eternal life, 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

Heavenly Father, may our prayers always reflect our gratitude for the great love that you show us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.