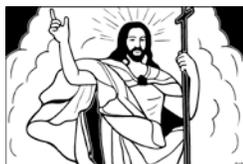


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2015



But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."

Jesus instructs his disciples to take this posture of confidence in the midst of a terribly disturbing situation. Describing his second coming, Jesus says that on seeing this event unfold, "People will die of fright." And yet the disciples are supposed to be pillars of strength. While others cower in fear, the Lord's followers are somehow immune, with heads raised high. Why? Well, presumably, because those who follow Christ—those who earn the distinction of being disciples—have nothing to fear. On the contrary, when they have to "stand before the Son of Man," it will be a happy occasion. But here's the catch: "disciple" is more than an empty title. If we want to be counted among this confident crew, there are a few things for us to do. Today's Gospel spells out these tasks, which are all perfect things to pursue during Advent. First, we have to make sure that our "hearts do not become drowsy." We are called to stay awake in a spiritual sense, not allowing "carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life" to numb us. We need to avoid whatever might reduce our ability to recognize and relate to Jesus, because we don't want his appearance to catch us "by surprise like a trap." Advent is an ideal time to examine our lives to determine what activities, priorities, or pastimes might be putting our hearts to sleep. Secondly, we need to pray. We need to ask Jesus himself for "the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." We can't do it alone. But with Christ's help, we can be true, fearless disciples.

PRAY THE ROSARY – We pray the Rosary thirty minutes before each Mass. Please join us.

Ministers for December 5th & 6th, 2015

LECTORS:

5:00PM Glenn Pratt, Reginald Christy, Heartha Boudreaux

8:30AM Rose Ellis, Wilbert Guidry, Rose Reed

11:00AM Consuella Broussard, Claire Middleton, Michael Jackson

EUCARIST MINISTERS:

5:00PM Nelda Davis, Margaret Riley

8:30AM Laura Allen, Tobin Hawkins, McKinley Johnson, Dorothy Lewis, May Walker, Patricia White

11:00AM Douglas Butler, Maria Jackson, Patrick Ndibe, Daphine Sands

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Tuesday, December 8th

LECTORS:

7:00PM Rose Ellis, Wilbert Guidry, Michael Jackson

EUCARIST MINISTERS:

Maria Jackson, Dorothy Lewis, Patricia White

Living Faith: Scripture Readings for the Day

MONDAY: Rom 10:9-18 * Ps 19:8-11 * Mt 4:18-22

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

TUESDAY: Is 11:1-10 * Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 * Lk 10:21-24

[Jesus] said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it."

WEDNESDAY: Is 25:6-10 * Ps 23:1-6 * Mt 15:29-37

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life.

THURSDAY: Is 26:1-6 * Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 * Mt 7:21, 24-27

Open up the gates to let in a nation that is just.

FRIDAY: Is 29:17-24 * Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 * Mt 9:27-31

But a very little while... the deaf shall hear the words of a book; And out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.

SATURDAY: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 * Ps 147:1-6 * Mt 9:35—10:1, 5-8

The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.

SUNDAY: Bac 5:1-9 * Ps 126:1-6 * Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 * Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee... the word of God came to John the son of the Zechariah in the desert.

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon.	5:30 PM	Liturgical Dance Practice
Tues.	7:00 PM	Men's Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	5pm Mass Choir Practice - Room 100.
	6:30 PM	Liturgy committee meeting
Sat.	9:00 AM	Liturgical Dance Practice
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting

Offering For Nov. 21st & 22nd, 2015

Regular Offering	\$ 10,221.50
Mailed in	\$ 1,520.00
Total	\$ 11,741.50
2 nd Collection	\$ 619.00

Thank you for sharing your blessing!

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. 5:00 PM For the People of the Parish
Sun. 8:30 AM Bertha Oliver & Debra Oliver Artis
by Hadley & Henrietta Hartshorn
Sun. 11:00 AM Eddie Lewis by Sandra Tolliver

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY:

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee, which has at its center the mercy of God, which he calls it 'Holy Year of Mercy.' This Holy Year will commence on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Tuesday, December 8, 2015 and will conclude on Sunday, November 20, 2016 the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy. During this year Holy Father invites us to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36). He wishes that the celebration of the Holy Year to be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God and be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective. More news to follow...

ADVENT SEASON:

Advent is the period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the nativity of Jesus. Advent is also the beginning of the liturgical year.

Advent is all about preparing ourselves to welcome Jesus into our heart. It simply means putting God first on our Christmas list, planning ways that we can give time, talent and treasure back to the Lord who has given us all that we have.

Preparations for the Christmas season remind us how much we all want to be generous. We all want to give good gifts to one another. Yet, often when it comes to giving back to God our response is, "Not yet!" We put off sharing our time, talent, and treasure for another day. We say we will give when we have more time and more money. But how much is 'more' for us? Yet none of us know when God will come and ask for an accounting of how we used the gifts entrusted to our care. The start of Advent reminds us not to put off our stewardship.

The Lord is coming!

DONATE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

We are soliciting donations for Christmas flowers for Advent and Christmas, to decorate the Church. If you would like to donate, please write "*Advent & Christmas Flower Fund*" on your check, or envelope. You may either place in the offertory basket or mail it to the church office.

THE SOLEMN FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

Tuesday, December 8th, is *the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. This is a holy day of obligation and so every catholic is expected to attend the Holy Mass. We will have at 7:00am & 7:00pm. *The Church Office will be closed.*

Religious Education News:

Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at the 8:30am Mass.

First Communion will be on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at the 8:30am Mass

Reminder! 8:30am Mass is designated as CCE students mass, therefore all students are expected to attend 8:30am Mass and must sit in their assigned seat in church.

LITURGICAL DANCE MINISTRY:

Liturgical Dance Ministry rehearsals for the Christmas celebrations will begin soon. Everyone starting at age 3, high school and adults are invited to participate. Age 3 through middle school students will be included in the Christmas Eve service and high school and adults will dance for St. Mary's Christmas Midnight service. If you would like to participate, please contact Roslyn Williams at roswilli@sbcglobal.net to get the rehearsal schedule.

STRAKE JESUIT OPEN HOUSE:

Based on over 450 years of Jesuit tradition, Strake Jesuit forms young men into intellectual, compassionate, spiritual and responsible Men for Others. Find out what makes strake Jesuit more than just a school at our open House on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00pm. Take a guided tour of the school, meet members of the faculty, and learn more about the many academic, extracurricular and spiritual activities available to strake Jesuit students.

RETREAT FOR LECTORS:

The lectors will have a retreat on Saturday, December 19th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM. It's mandatory for all the lectors.