

ADVENT The Season of Joyful Anticipation



A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Ernest Hemingway wrote, “*Chewing on the past is a bum way to spend your life.*” Hemingway was right. Yet, we all know how easy it is to get stuck in the past. To play over and over again, in our head, the way things used to be, to relive again and again a decision we wish we would have made differently, or words we wish we had never said. Living in the past is both senseless and wasteful. It is a bum way to spend your life.

These thoughts are helpful as we approach the season of Christmas, because there is a tendency at Christmas time to get stuck in the past. Our Christmas cards and displays all tend to describe celebrations of the holiday in terms of generations gone by. Our Christmas carols and family traditions bring us back to our childhood, and it is easy to see our childhood as a simpler, purer way of living. We can imagine that the purpose of this holiday is simply to provide similar memories for our children and our grandchildren.

Now there is certainly some good in this nostalgic, old fashioned approach to Christmas. But there is also a good deal of danger, for it is impossible for us to live our lives in the past. If we set up our childhood as some kind of ideal, it is an ideal we will never be able to attain, because we cannot be children again. With childhood as a norm, we are saying that the best part of our lives is already behind us.

For all these reasons we are fortunate to have the season of Advent, because Advent is not about the past but the future. It is not about the people we used to be, but the people we can become. It does not tell us that we can find God in the memories of our childhood, but rather in the promises of the future. There is a pattern to Advent, a pattern that we are called to follow. The pattern of Advent is remembering and rehearsing.

Advent is not afraid to remember. It does not hold back from reliving what we have experienced and the things we have witnessed in our life. But the remembering of Advent is not a goal in itself. It does not call us to the past but uses the past to allow us to live in a new way. That way is by rehearsing, rehearsing the coming of Christ, rehearsing for the good things that God still intends to give us. Advent is about remembering and rehearsing—remembering the truth of our past so that we can live in the present open to the gifts of the future.

What should we remember in Advent? Two things: our mistakes and our blessings. Advent calls us to remember our mistakes, those patterns of behavior that constantly trip us up. Advent calls us to a new step, a step that is wiser, more generous, more life-giving. Remembering the mistakes of the past can lead us to a new way of living.

Advent also calls us to remember our blessings. Advent calls us to claim those blessings. Those blessings will allow us to rehearse a conviction of hope, a hope that comes from realizing that if God has blessed us so much in the past, God will not abandon us in the future. Make these upcoming weeks before Christmas more than a way of looking back to the past with nostalgia. Remember and rehearse so that you can live this Advent in preparation, so that you might be ready to stand before the Son of Man when he comes in glory.

Today is Youth Ministry Sunday. A 2nd collection will be taken-up at all the Masses, this weekend. The purpose of this collection is to assist the work of the ministries and Outreach office in providing formation, training and support for youth ministry.

PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Your new sets of parish envelopes are ready to be picked up from the tables at the entrance of the church. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Anyone wishing envelopes for 2019 is asked to call the parish office. **Please DO NOT USE your new envelopes until January 2019.**



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Dec. 3rd - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, memorial
Is. 2:1-5; Mat. 8:5-11, 13

Tue. Dec. 4th - Is. 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Wed. Dec. 5th - Is. 25:6-10a; Mat. 15:29-37

Thurs. Dec. 6th - Is. 26:1-6; Mat. 7:21, 24-27

Fri. Dec. 7th - ST. AMBROSE, memorial
Is. 29:17-24; Mat. 9:27-31

Sat. Dec. 8th - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Genesis 3:9-15,20; Ephes. 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Sun. Dec. 9th - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Baruch 5:1-9; Philip 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Dec. 1 st	5 pm Mass for Mateo Gutierrez, R.I.P.
Sun. Dec. 2 nd	9 am Mass for parishioners 11 am Mass for Muriel Chan, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for the int. of Lori Zalamea
Mon. Dec. 3 rd	8 am Mass for John Credico, R.I.P.
Tue. Dec. 4 th	8 am Mass for the int. of Maria Farina
Wed. Dec. 5 th	9 am Mass for Mel Battensby, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Novena Mass Novena
Thur. Dec. 6 th	8:00 am Mass for the int. of Judith Hoo
Fri. Dec. 7 th	8:00 am Mass for the int. of Joseph Mendoza 7:30 pm Mass for Mary & Joseph Tong, R.I.P.
Sat. Dec. 8 th	9:00 am Mass for Eduino & Felomena Medeiros, R.I.P.

ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Dec. 5th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Fri. Dec. 7th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Dec. 8th - 5:00 PM - Anna, Henry & Lynn Cao,
C.Lee, L.Soliman.

Sun. Dec. 9th - 9:00 AM - E.Garrovillas, S & S Lee, K.Tuguinay.

11:00 AM - A & E Biason, F.Hua, T.Laygo, P.Que.

5:00 PM - A & J Arias, A.Belnas, Emily, Jaden & Kaitlyn Chan,
E.Jarvis, I.Picariello.



SQUIRETTES NEWS

Poinsettia Sale: This Sunday after the 9 & 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

Friendship Day: Join us this Sunday after the 9 & 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.



ST. JUDE'S ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY would like thank all those who so generously contributed to the Christmas Hamper collection last weekend.

PROJECT ADVANCE

"Live Gratefully, Give Generously"

Thank you so much to everyone who gave to our Annual Project Advance appeal. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support. **Please be reminded that the deadline to fulfill your pledges is December 31st.**

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult). The program is suitable to anyone who is interested in learning more about our faith, for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith, whether you were baptized or not. For more info call the parish office (604) 434-6700.



SCHOOL NEWS

- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!



FIRST FRIDAY, 24 HOUR, EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT, will be held this Friday, Dec. 7th, following the 8 a.m. Mass, until Saturday, 8:30 a.m. A minimum of 2 volunteers per hour is required. Please write your name at the hour you can attend, on the sheet provided on the table in the vestibule.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, Dec. 11th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Jude's

Advent is the season of preparation. Throughout these weeks, the Scriptures tell us to "awake and be vigilant." During this time we are all encouraged to go to confession as a way to prepare for the coming of the King of Kings. We have posted the schedule of Penitential Services being held in our area on the bulletin board at the entrance of the church.



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflections

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." Luke 21:28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, his first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

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DATE NIGHT: Love in Marriage

Take some time together before the busy season of Christmas. Join us for dinner and an evening of celebrating the Joy of Love in Marriage. Come hear the inspiring messages from the 2018 World Meeting of Families. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Van. To register, <https://rcav.org/event/date-night-love-in-marriage>

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND DIACONATE

The Archdiocese of Vancouver joyfully announces the ordinations of Deacon Guy Zidago to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood and Felix Min to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 12 p.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral.

LITTLE FLOWER ACADEMY is accepting applications from prospective Gr. 8 candidates for the 2019/20 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the **Entrance Exam on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018**. To apply please fill out the online form on our school website www.lfabc.org/apply or contact Kathi Wilson at 604-738-9016 xt. 114

