

Homily Summary – 4th Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Main Theme: Love—God’s Gift and Call to Action

As we light the final Advent candle, the Candle of Love, we reflect on how true love comes from God and flows into how we treat others. Advent reminds us not just to wait but to prepare for Jesus’ coming with hearts full of love and faith.

Main Points

1. Love Defined and Exemplified

- **Definition:** Love is choosing the true good of the other, even at a cost to ourselves. Jesus is the perfect example of self-giving love.
- **Micah’s Prophecy (Micah 5:1-4A):** Bethlehem, a humble town, becomes the birthplace of Christ, the Good Shepherd, who brings peace and salvation. This reminds us that God’s love often appears in simple, everyday circumstances.

2. Sacrificial Love

- **Hebrews 10:5-10:** Christ replaced old sacrifices with the perfect offering of Himself. His selfless love sanctifies us and calls us to reflect that love in our own lives.

3. Love in Action

- **Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45):** Mary’s act of love—bringing Jesus to Elizabeth—teaches us that love inspires service and brings Christ to others.

4. Advent as a Time of Preparation

- Time is a gift from God. Advent invites us to “reboot” our spiritual lives, much like resetting a computer, and to use this time to grow closer to Him.
- The “O Antiphons” beautifully summarize our longing for Christ, reminding us of His roles as Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of Nations, and Emmanuel.

5. Reflective Questions

- How can you use the remaining days of Advent to prepare your heart for Jesus?
 - What gift will you offer to Christ this Christmas—time, service, or love?
-

Reflection Questions

- How can I show selfless love like Jesus and Mary this week?
 - Am I using my time to grow closer to God and serve others?
-

Rhyme Summary

It’s Advent, the season to prepare,
For Jesus is coming, so let’s show we care.
Bethlehem’s ruler, from origins old,
Brings peace and salvation more precious than gold.

Mary showed love, visiting with haste,
Bearing the Savior, no time to waste.
Joy leaps within, the Spirit’s alive,
Through Jesus, our King, true joy will thrive.

Time is a gift, so let’s use it right,
Prepare for His coming, make hearts pure and bright.
Offer your love, your prayers, your all,
And to Christ who is coming, answer the call.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>