

Homily Summary – 1st Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Main Themes:

- **Advent: A Season of Vigilance and Hope**

- Advent invites us to awaken from spiritual complacency and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. It is a season marked by joyful expectation and active readiness as we anticipate His coming in history, mystery, and majesty.

- **Three Comings of Christ:**

- History: His first coming as a child in Bethlehem.
- Mystery: His ongoing presence in our daily lives, especially in the Eucharist and through others.
- Majesty: His future return as the King of Glory at the end of time.

Key Scripture Passages:

- “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life” (Luke 21:34).
- “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made” (Jeremiah 33:14).
- “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all” (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

Living Out the Gospel:

Awaken to God's Presence: Advent challenges us to wake up, recognizing God’s presence in our everyday lives.

Prepare with Prayer and Reconciliation: Make space for Jesus by deepening your prayer life and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Live in Hope and Charity: Embrace hope and extend love to others, especially the poor and those in need, reflecting the spirit of the season.

Mary’s Role in Advent:

- Mary, the model of vigilance and trust, awaited the birth of Jesus with faith and love. She teaches us to welcome Christ with an open heart and readiness to do God’s will.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I spiritually awake, or have I become distracted by the worries of this life?
- How can I make more room for Jesus in my daily routine this Advent?
- In what ways can I share the light of Christ with those around me?

Takeaway:

Advent is not just about waiting; it’s about preparing and being vigilant. It’s a time to slow down, reflect, and open our hearts to the transforming presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Rap Summary:

Wake up, stay alert, it’s Advent time,
Prepare your heart to let His love shine.
Christ is coming, so don’t delay,
He’s the light, the truth, and the way.
Mary watched with a hope so bright,
We do the same in this Advent’s light.
Be ready, pray, and live without fear,
For Jesus Christ is coming, He is always near!

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/>