

Homily Summary – 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Main Points:

1. Joyful Anticipation and Preparation:

- Advent calls us to allow God to work in our hearts, making us whole and holy.
- The Second Reading (Philippians 1:6) reassures us that God, who began a good work in us, will bring it to completion.

2. The Symbol of Replating:

- Just as objects for sacred worship are replated and restored to their beauty, God works on us to renew our hearts and lives.
- Our lives are like works in progress, being transformed into masterpieces for God's glory.

3. Role of St. John the Baptist:

- John's baptism of repentance opened hearts to God's work.
- We are invited to identify "mountains" (pride, sin) and "valleys" (lacking prayer, good works) that need adjustment in our lives.

4. Living the Call Today:

- Through Confession, we remove obstacles to God's grace and prepare for His greater work in us.
- Like Mary, whose "yes" allowed God to work fully in her life, we are called to surrender ourselves to God's plan.

Reflection Questions:

1. What areas of your life need God's work this Advent?
2. How can you "prepare the way" for the Lord in your daily life?

Takeaway for Families:

- Advent is a time to involve the whole family in preparing spiritually for Christmas. Use traditions like the Advent wreath and Confession to stay focused.

Rap Summary:

God's at work, He's not done with you,
Shaping your heart, making it new.
Like bells replated, shining so bright,
Prepare the way, step into His light.

John called for change, a path to start,
Turn from sin, give God your heart.
Lower the mountains, fill valleys of prayer,
The Lord's great love is always there.

Reconciliation clears the way,
For God to shape you every day.
Like Mary's "yes," let grace unfold,
Because you're His masterpiece, more precious than gold.

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/>