



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. The very word "Advent" means coming. But there are two comings of Christ: his first coming, when he was born of Mary in Bethlehem, and his second coming, when we will come again in glory at the end of time. And so, the Church divides Advent into two parts.

The first part, which begins this weekend and goes until December 16th, emphasizes preparation for the second coming of Christ. The second part, from December 17th through Christmas Eve, emphasizes preparation for the celebration of his birth (cf. Calendarium Romanum, p.16).

Advent should be a joyful time, since expectation of a happy event is always a happy thing. Though the "Gloria" is not said at mass, it is omitted not because we are sad or sorrowful, but only so that on Christmas our singing of this great song of the angels may in a certain sense be a new experience for us. And so today, we begin the joyful expectation of the final coming of Christ at the end of time.

But there is something of a problem here. The picture that many of us have of the final coming is, at best, short of joy. We have the idea that it will be a terrifying experience, a great, awesome cataclysm with the world engulfed in fire and the fearsome judge of all people calling us to account for the least wrong we have done. How can we be expected to want the end of the world, and to look forward to it? And yet the early Christians had an immense yearning for it. That is strange to our present outlook. If the early Christians looked forward to the end of the world, and we dread it, it seems obvious that our notion is different from theirs.

There is much fear in our times that the whole world may just blow up through gigantic atomic or hydrogen explosions. There is no guarantee that this will occur. But we must not be afraid that God is going to lose control of his creation or that humankind through its foolish genius will upset God's plans for the universe. Whatever may happen from the human angle, God will send his Son in glory again when he has decided that the time has come for the end of our present world. But that time will be a new beginning for all creation, a time of perfection without sin.

And what of ourselves? Naturally, we live in hope that we will be part of that perfection without sin. And we will be, if we live according to the words of this weekend's Gospel. "Be on guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence and drunkenness and worldly cares. Pray constantly".

Today we begin a new Church year. During this year, we will celebrate all the saving events of the life of Jesus Christ. But today as we begin, we look to the end. We look to the completion of all the good that Jesus began by his life on this earth, a completion that will come only at the end of time. Like the early Christians, we should have an intense yearning for the final coming of Christ. As we pray in the Preface of the First Sunday of Advent during the mass, we should "watch for the day hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again his glory.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion
Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows include Tues. Nov 30 11:00AM, Wed. Dec 1 11:00AM, Thur. Dec 2 11:00AM, Fri. Dec 3 11:00AM, Sat. Dec 4 4:30PM, Sun. Dec 5 9:00AM, and Port Costa 11:00AM.



Sunday Collection - November 21

Table with 2 columns: Parish, Amount. Rows: St. Rose, Crockett \$2001; St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$335.

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Breaking Bread Mass Book

We know that many would like to follow during Mass, and we have the new Breaking Bread music and reading books (Advent 2021-Thanksgiving 2022) available. If you are interested in a personal copy for a \$10 donation, please come by the office or let Father Leo know!

Mission Alignment Process

A gracious thank you to all for helping with this important project! Between both our little parishes we ended up with 58% participation. We will patiently be awaiting our results, which we will share in the Spring!

Current Mass Protocol

- All persons need to wear masks indoors; currently no one is required to wear masks outdoors.
Social distancing is not required, though we do ask to keep others in mind as we work our way back to "normal."
Although the Diocese has okayed the use of worship aids, such as the missalettes, it is still recommended to stick to single use items. As there is no good way to clean the missalettes and prayer cards without wearing them down St. Rose/St. Patrick will not be setting these back out just yet.
The Sign of Peace will still be without physical contact.

Communal Anointing of the Sick

December 18th & 19th, we will be having our annual Advent Communal Anointing of the Sick at all masses. If you have family members or friends who need this sacrament invite them! Come and be healed with God's healing touch.



Snowflakes

With the beginning of Advent this week, we are inviting all who visit our parishes during the season to sponsor a snowflake as a fundraiser (suggested donation of \$5). Your snowflakes can be for whatever intentions you hold in your heart. The snowflakes will be hung up on trees at both St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission, and you are welcome to write the intentions on the snowflakes themselves, leave them blank or simply put your family name. Snowflakes will be available at the office and before all masses.



Mexican Drive-Thru Dinner



Our parish is having a Mexican drive-thru dinner on Friday, December 10th as part of our celebration of la Virgen de Guadalupe. Our serving hours will be 4:30PM -6:30PM, and the price of a ticket is \$18. Your dinner will include two chicken enchiladas, a beef taco, beans and rice and tortilla chips with salsa.



Reserve your dinner by Monday, December 6th.

For more information, or if you would like to help, please call the office, 787-2052. Spread the word, and come out and support our parish!

Special Second Collection

Next weekend, December 4th & 5th, we will be having a special second collection to help support all the beautiful Christmas decorations that add to our advent and Christmas liturgies.

