

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. “Advent”, as the name suggests, has to do with the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a period of preparation to commemorate the first coming of Jesus. That is what we do at Christmas. But the Church uses the season of advent also to remind us of his Second Coming. This first Sunday is intended to remind us that we can become so busy with the tasks of Christmas preparation that we fail to do the one thing that really counts-to learn to wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at the end of time.

The disciples of Jesus were understandably curious to know when the Second Coming would take place and the manner in which it would happen. Jesus told them that a far more important consideration was that they be prepared for that Second Coming, so that whenever it does happen and whatever form it might take, they would be prepared to meet the Son of Man, the Christ.

The reason is that the second coming will mean different things to different people. For some people-those who will have prepared themselves for it-it will bring joy eternal, liberation from the vicissitudes of this earthly life. For others, however, -those who will have failed to prepare themselves-it will spell doom, everlasting disaster. That is the sense in which two men will be in the fields, “one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.” That is why the all-important issue is whether or not people are prepared to meet the son of man when he comes again in glory, not when and how he will come.

According to Jesus in today’s Gospel passage, the way to prepare for the Second Coming is to “stay awake”. In other words, the key is “constant vigilance”. The reason is quite simple: no one knows when the Second Coming will be. It may be tomorrow, next year, or many millennia yet to come. If people are always prepared for the second coming, then it should not matter when or how it will happen, because it will not take them unawares. It will always find them ready; it will find them “awake”. During this Advent, we are called to prepare not just for Santa Claus coming to Town, but more importantly for Jesus coming into the hearts of you and me. As we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, let us be watchful in prayers; stay awake and be vigilant that it may not take us unaware.

Have a blessed weekend

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP

Primer Domingo de Adviento

Esperar activamente al Señor significa no dejarnos adormecer por puros intereses privados en nuestras casas y apartamentos, pero donar nuestra atención, tiempo y talentos. Esto implica compartir nuestras fortalezas y aceptar nuestras debilidades en nuestras parroquias, escuelas, comunidades de trabajo y en la sociedad,” dijo el Cardenal Joseph Bernardin. ¿Cómo podemos “esperar activamente” la llegada de Cristo durante este Adviento?

First Sunday of Advent

“Active waiting for the Lord means not allowing ourselves to be lulled into purely private interests in our homes and apartments, but donating our attention, time and talents. It implies sharing our strengths and accepting our weaknesses in our parishes, schools, community work, and in society at large,” said Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. How can we “actively wait” for Christ this Advent?

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27

10 am First Communion Class
1-4 pm Confirmation Class

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

11 am African Clergy Mass
12 pm Hosting African Clergy Meeting

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29

6 pm TNMC (No Host)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30

5:30-8 pm Formation Classes

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1

7 pm Pastoral Council Meeting

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

7 pm Grupo de Oracion

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

1 pm Ortiz/Perez Wedding

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

Breakfast with St. Nick Fundraiser
Reconciliation Class
1-4 pm Confirmation Class
6 pm Spanish Parish Mission Mass /
Spanish Parish Mission (After Mass)

**St. Stephen
Women's Society**

Is having their **Membership Drive** for 2017 on Sunday December 4th at All Masses. Please respond with the envelope you will be given before Mass.

SSWS Sponsored **Christmas Dinner** on December 15 at the Inn of Salado \$20 per person. It is an opportunity to sit down and enjoy food, fellowship music in a Christmas atmosphere. Please RSVP to Dorothy Dentry 254-760-2456 or ddentry13@gmail.com

Monetary Stewardship

Collection Last Week:

Regular: \$4368.00
Online: \$ 957.44
Total \$ 5325.44

... remembering the words of the Lord who said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive* (Acts 20:35).

May he that supplies seeds to the sower and bread to the hungry bless your generosity!

**Building for Our Lord
Campaign
Construyendo Para Nuestro
Senor**

Total Pledge To Date:
\$1,421,876.00

Amount Collected To Date:
\$810,000.00

Pledges to be Redeemed:
\$526,020.00

Paid Diocese Months of October 31
\$41,998.00

Loan Balance to Date:
\$591,532.00

Original Loan Total
\$800,000.00

SAVE THE DATE • 2016 •

2016

Parish Mission

December 4-5, 2016
Spanish Mission
with Fr. Uche Andeh

December 6-7, 2016
English Mission
with Fr. James Misko

Mass Intentions

Sat.	Nov 26	5:30 pm	Stewart Smith +
Sun.	Nov 27	9:00 am	Janice Piatek +
		11:00 am	Ashley Ortiz (Birthday)
Mon.	Nov 28	11:00 am	
Tues.	Nov 29	6:00 pm	Janice Piatek +
Wed.	Nov 30	8:30 am	Brent Romero +
Thurs	Dec 1	8:30 am	Stewart Smith +
Fri	Dec 2	12:00 pm	Nicholas Pritchett
Sat	Dec 3	5:30 pm	Leonard Lazarte +
Sun	Dec 4	9:00 am	Leonard Lazarte +
		11:00 am	Familia Ortiz Villafranco

Ministry Schedule for December 3-4, 2016

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	E Cerda Nita H.	M Markham E Markham	C Kowleski S Ervin M Ervin	Deacon Ernie P Watson T Schatte R Schatte B Yanez L Rohaly
9:00 AM	T Grace G Petter	I Dworaczyk L Hossfield K Konarik K Konarik	D Broecker G Reihsen J Wilson	Robert M M Riley C Brown K Cross D Roberts
11:00 AM	P Garcia A Robert	A Arias A Ortiz D Villafranco S Villafranco M Sanchez D Villasana	A Perez B Martinez C Urquiza	J Villarreal N Martinez Santana J M Lariz L Loma

**Breakfast with St. Nicholas
Sunday December 4 from 9:30-1 pm**

Please join us in the Parish Hall for a special Breakfast, includes pancakes, sausage, coffee/juice, and pastries. There will also be crafts, photos with St. Nicholas and holiday gifts from the "Amazing Grace" gift store. Proceeds will benefit the St. Stephen Catholic Youth Group.

Faith Formation

There will be **NO** Faith Formation classes on Wednesday, **December 7**. All families are encouraged to participate in the parish mission that week.

The Giving Tree

Please be sure that The Giving Tree gifts are returned unwrapped by Sunday, December 4



**OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE
CELEBRATION**

Please come and join us as we celebrate the day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on

**Monday
December 12**

Mañanitas at 5 am
Mass at 6 am
Matachines & Breakfast at 7 am

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

DECEMBER 9 2016

All Penance Services Start at 7:00 pm