



Stay Awake and Stand Ready

Once again, we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin, *advenire*, which means 'to come.' Unlike Lent, the season of Advent does not have a purely penitential character but is rather one of preparation and expectation. As we prepare to celebrate the feast of the Lord's Nativity, we remember how God once came into our world to share our lives, and we wait in expectation for the time that he will come again.

Today, we live in a world that is in a precarious state. War and violence are all around. We are told that we have to maintain our vigilance against forces that seek to harm us. We also realize that our lifestyle causes irreparable damage to our planet. As we go about our daily business, unencumbered by any concerns, we never imagine anything bad will happen to us. We are used to seeing things happen to other people on the news. But we never know. While we enjoy our lives, we also live in fear.

The people of Jesus' time, lived in the strong belief that the world could come to an end soon. They were awfully sensitive to the signs of the times – a natural disaster, the tragic death of some persons and the stories of the Bible served as warnings and Jesus issues another warning in today's Gospel:

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'For in those days before the flood, people were eating, drinking...they suspected nothing till the flood came and swept them all away... So stay awake!'

The first generation of Christians believed that Jesus would come again very soon. Next week perhaps! They called it the *parousia*. Eventually, they realized that the end times were not as imminent as they had imagined and some began to "get on with their lives", some went back to the lifestyle they had before and the urgency of their conversion was forgotten.

We do not know when Christ will come again. But Paul reminds the Romans, it is nearer now than it was last year. Of that, we can be certain. The season of Advent is a time for us to renew our commitment of faith in Jesus Christ and our belief that one day we will see him and for that we must be prepared.

Advent calls us to prayer, to examine our lives and to show more love to the people around us. We do not know when Christ will come again, but we do know for certain that Christ is present here and now. When we recognize Christ in our brothers and sisters, then we are prepared for his coming.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



1st Sunday of Advent
 Year A
 1 December 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 1 December	Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44 I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
Mon, 2 December	Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11 I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
Tue, 3 December St. Francis Xavier	1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mk 16:15-20 Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
Wed, 4 December St. John Damascene	Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37 In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever.
Thu, 5 December	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21,24-27 Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
Fri, 6 December St. Nicholas	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31 The Lord is my light and my help.
Sat, 7 December St. Ambrose	Is 30:19-21,23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1,6-8 Happy are all who hope in the Lord.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon*, 5.30pm
 *2nd & 4th Sunday – Mass in Tagalog, subject to the availability of priests.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
 Mandarin: 2.30pm
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

Advent Novena

We are in the 6th week of the Advent Novena and this year theme is, "The Birth of Jesus". All are welcome. Bring along your family and friends.

30 Nov: Jesus and the Shepherds

7 Dec: Jesus and His Family

14 Dec: Jesus – Saviour, The Light of the World

21 Dec: Jesus – The King

Advent Penitential Services for City District at 8pm

9th December – Church of Sts. Peter and Paul

10th December – Church of the Sacred Heart

11th December – Church of St Michael

12th December – Church of St Bernadette

13th December – Church of St. Teresa

16th December – Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)

17th December – Church of the Our Lady of Lourdes

Simbang Gabi Mass, 15th December

There will be a Simbang Gabi Mass organized by the Novena Filipino Community on 15th December at 8pm in the Main Church. All are welcome.

Advent Prayer Reflection and Musical Presentation



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

5 ADVENT FIGURES
AN ADVENT PRAYER REFLECTION
Risen Christ Youth Symphony
conducted by Dr. Aloysius Leong
DATE : 10th Dec 2019
TIME : 8.00pm – 9.30pm

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES
A Musical presentation by
Boni De Souza & Friends
DATE : 20th Dec 2019
TIME : 8.00pm – 9.30pm

All happening at Novena Church.
Free Admission.
A love offering would be greatly appreciated.

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 8th December 2019 at 12 noon.

"DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers"

Courses on Baking, Cooking and Cake Decoration (Basic & Advance), Sewing and Handicraft from January 2020 till June 2020.

The 1st Batch 2020 Care-Giving Course is scheduled to begin on Sunday, 29th March. Classes will be conducted on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

Registration is open

Dates : Sundays in December

Time : 10 am to 2 pm

Venue : DAWN,
Good Shepherd Place,
9, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,
Singapore 319253.

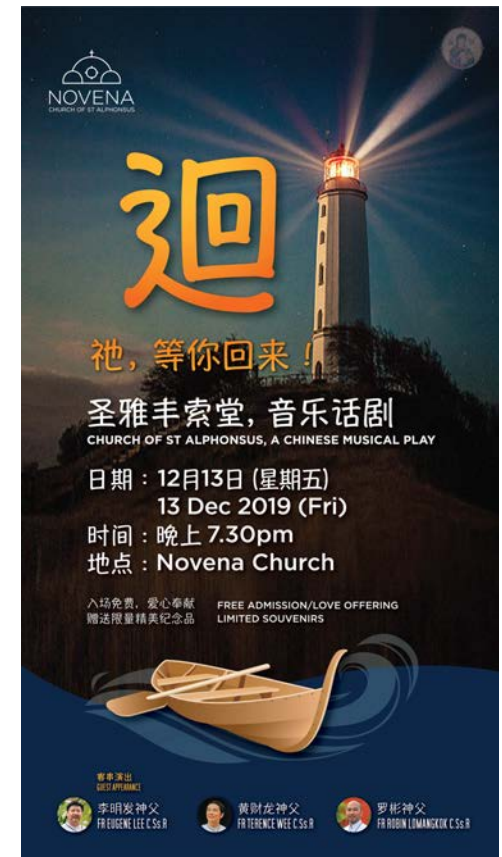
Contact: 96702880 (Suzeth),
82694546 (Rowena), or
82333728 (Sr. Barbara)

The Pope's Monthly Intention for December 2019

The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Advent Chinese Musical Play



NOVENA
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS

迴
袖, 等你回来!
圣雅丰索堂, 音乐话剧
CHURCH OF ST ALPHONSUS, A CHINESE MUSICAL PLAY

日期 : 12月13日 (星期五)
13 Dec 2019 (Fri)
时间 : 晚上 7.30pm
地点 : Novena Church

入场免费, 爱心奉献
赠送限量精美纪念品
FREE ADMISSION/LOVE OFFERING
LIMITED SOUVENIRS

香港演出
BEST APPEARANCE

李明发神父
FR EUGENE LEE C.Ss.R

黄财龙神父
FR TERENCE WEE C.Ss.R

罗彬神父
FR ROBIN LOMANGKOK C.Ss.R

We will be organizing a Chinese Musical on the theme : Homecoming Pilgrims @ Novena (He is waiting for you) It will be held in Novena Church on 13th December 2019 at 7.30pm and admission is free. All are welcome!