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 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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Christ is Coming - Christ is Here

Some of us know what it's like to plan a wedding. We have to plan for the church and the liturgy, we have to send out invitations and process the RSVPs, the reception needs to be organised, guests need to be accommodated, and many other things. Many couples start making plans a year or more before their wedding.

Advent has begun and we have twenty-three days to prepare for Christmas! Advent serves two purposes. First, it is an immediate preparation for Christmas, and secondly, it is a reminder to be prepared for the time when Christ will come again.

It's difficult enough to prepare for an event when we know how much time we have. What if we do not even know when it is going to happen? In today's Gospel, Jesus says: *'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars. Men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world. And they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.'*

The early Christians believed that Jesus Christ would return shortly and the end of the world was near. They called it the parousia. Luke reminds his readers, *'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with ... the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you, suddenly, like a trap.'*

So, they prepared themselves and didn't waste time on anything "worldly." They believed that the day would come soon, but they did not know exactly when. As they waited, weeks became months and months became years. Finally, they realized that the end times were not as imminent as they had imagined and they had to get on with the responsibilities of daily life.

How can we decipher the signs hidden in the sun, and moon and stars? The signs of Christ's "coming" are everywhere. Christ is already here! Christ is present in our hearts, in the people that we love and in the community of faith. Christ is everywhere in our lives.

The early Christian community came to the realization that their faith was not only about waiting for Christ to return, but to recognize Christ present in their current circumstances and the people around them.

Advent is an opportunity to spend more time in 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 midst, then we are prepared for his coming.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



1st Sunday Of Advent
 Year C
 2nd December 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 2 December	Jer 33:14-16; 1 Th 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28,34-36 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
Mon, 3 December St. Francis Xavier, Priest	1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mk 16:15-20 Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
Tue, 4 December St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
Wed, 5 December	Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37 In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever.
Thu, 6 December St. Nicholas, Bishop	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21,24-27 Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
Fri, 7 December St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31 The Lord is my light and my help.
Sat, 8 December Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary	Gen 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38 Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

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

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

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

Our Advent Novena to prepare for Christmas has begun. We are now in the 6th week. The Theme for this special Novena is, "**His Name shall be.....**" All are welcome. Bring along your family and friends.

27 Oct : Jesus (Introduction)

3 Nov : Son of David

10 Nov : Son of the Most High

17 Nov : Mighty God

24 Nov : The Christ

1 Dec : Wonderful Counselor

8 Dec : Prince of Peace

15 Dec : Saviour

22 Dec : Immanuel

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 9th December at 12 noon.

16th December, Simbang Gabi Mass

There will be a Simbang Gabi Mass organized by the Novena Filipino Community on 16th December at 8pm in the Main Church. All are welcome.

A Biblical Walk Through The Mass

An invitation from Novena Bible Apostolate to this study on 4 Wednesdays.

Dates: 9 Jan 2019 - 30 Jan 2019

Time: 7.45pm - 9.30pm

Venue: The Scala
(Church Basement 2)

Fee: \$15 (A Student Workbook will be provided)

Optional : \$25 (A Textbook on The Mass) Please indicate if you want when you register

For more information please email bible.novena@gmail.com or contact Bob (96263824) or Matthew (97461376). Closing date will be 23 December.

Advent Penitential Services for City District at 8pm

10th December - Church of Sts. Peter and Paul

11th December - Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

12th December - Church of St Teresa

13th December - Church of St Michael

14th December - Church of St. Bernadette

17th December - Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)

18th December - Church of the Sacred Heart

Christmas & New Year Mass Times

Christmas Vigil - 24th December
Carolling - 8.30pm
Mass - 9pm

Christmas Day - 25th December
Mass as usual at 8am, 10am,
12noon and 5.30pm

New Year's Eve - 31st December
Praise & Worship at 10pm.
Mass at 10.30pm

New Year's Day - 1st January 2019
Mass as usual at 8am & 6.30pm

Please take note that there will be **No** lunch-time Mass 1st January 2019 being public holiday.

Advent is here!

The word "advent" comes from a Latin term referring to the coming of an emperor or a king. But, we are awaiting the coming of Someone greater than any earthly ruler. Advent is a time we reflect on the coming of Jesus at two distinct times. First, we remember his birth in Bethlehem - the time God fulfilled the promise to send us a Saviour. It is also a time for us to wait in hope for the Second Coming of Jesus in glory. Our Advent Wreath is steeped in symbolism. The violet colour of the three candles reminds us of the spiritual preparation we need to make during this holy time. The rose coloured candle symbolises the joy we ought to have as we wait for the birthday of Jesus. The white candle stands for the presence of Jesus amongst us as the Light of the World. The evergreens and the unending circle of the wreath help us call to mind the eternal life that Jesus offers us.

Come, Lord Jesus!

