

The Second Sunday of Advent



Come, Lord Jesus!

Reflections for the Season of Advent

In the words of *The saints*



"The most deadly poison of our times is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise Him to the greatest extent of our powers."

Saint Maximilian Kolbe O.F.M. Conv.

"How long do you think it will take before he cries." This was a question asked by almost everyone at the wedding. There were good-natured bets being made that the groom would break down, though he swore he would hold it together. As the music began to play, The bridesmaids

began to walk in one at a time. "One down, three to go," he thought. As his sister walked through the door, that feeling we all get began to come, but he was able to fight back the tears. Then, the music changed, and the doors began to move signaling that the bride was about to enter. This was the big moment!

This is a very common scene at a wedding. While the tears of the groom are not always a true test of his love and devotion to his soon to be wife, it is still a moving

sight to see. But what is love; truly?

Today, we throw the word around so quickly that it may have lost its meaning. "I love that book!" or "I love this restaurant!" are ubiquitous phrases, but does the person truly "love" those things? No! Love is not something tangible, but rather a feeling or emotion that can only be expressed. On Valentine's Day, couples will share flowers and gifts as a sign of their love, but those chocolates are not actual love. The Greeks knew this, which is why they had six words for love: Agape (charity), Eros (spouses), Philia (friendship), Storg (parent and child),Pragma (long marriage), and Philautia (self). They knew that love could not be solely defined by one word, but instead takes on many forms.

This second Sunday of Advent, we focus on the theme of love; the love of God. As we prepare for the arrival of the Messiah, let us reflect on the amazing love of God. He lowered Himself to be one with us, He suffered an excruciating death for our salvation, and He continues to journey with us each day of our lives. Are there ways that you can show your love of others in these ways? To experience their suffering? To journey with them? To give them a sign of God's love for them?

That groom at the beginning of the story couldn't contain his love. Before the doors opened, the tears began to flow. No one doubted his love at that moment. Don't let anyone question yours.

Advent Prayer

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first and second (purple) candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Advent Challenge

Sit in a different pew

1

for Mass.
You will be

amazed how this simple change will change your perspective, and what more you notice.

Make plans to attend a

2

non-secular
Christmas

event. While Christmas concerts, tree festivals are great, take some time to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas as well.

Invite someone to Mass.

3

Yes, we know it can be

uncomfortable, but it is important. Some people are waiting for an invitation. It can be uncomfortable not knowing anyone in church.

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Pastor's Perspective

Why did Jesus come to us? The answer is simple: Love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." Christ's presence among us is a total gift of Love, and as Christians we are called to follow His path of Love in our lives. Love is what will transform our world from a place of sorrow and division into a home for the human family. Love is what convinces other that our words are true – that we are changed by our relationship with Jesus. When we prepare for Christmas properly, through prayer and generosity, then our hearts are filled to the brim with God's Love. We are encouraged to continue giving more and more, no matter the cost; because, as St. Mother Teresa said, "When you love until it hurts, there is no more hurt – only Love." May our path toward Christmas be paved with Love that opens us up to one another and to God.

Fr. Austin

A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH ADVENT

Date	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Verse	Luke 3:4,6	Isaiah 35:4	Matthew 18:12-14	Luke 1:46-55	Matthew 11:11-15	John 8:12	Psalm 80:4

Pastoral Council Perspective

Submitted by Rob Zacherl: Pastoral Council member

As Christians, we have always been told that God's love for us will never fail. We do our best to emulate that and, so often, because we are human, we fail. Hopefully, we'll remember that God still loves us and we'll strive to be a better person. All of us will struggle with that reality all of our lives.

Saying "I love you" can and should be an essential part of our everyday lives. Saying it reinforces how you feel about your spouse, children, parents and the many special people in your lives. Saying it to God through our prayers makes us feel better about ourselves. Imagine how different this world would be if everyone just told God that we loved him every day and really meant it! There would be so much less hate in this world if we could just really focus in His love for us.

My wife and I are the sponsor couple for marriage prep classes for Our Lady of Hope and St. Luke. Over the last few years, we have met so many amazing young couples. The love they have for each other is wonderful to see. We try to impress upon them the importance of keeping God in their lives, praying together, and to truly love one another and practice that love every day through listening and communication.

Let God's love guide you during this Christmas season and throughout the new year as it will truly make a difference in your life.