



MAKING ADVENT MEANINGFUL

There is a temptation to be overzealous with our Advent plans. Making all sorts of resolutions and adding many prayers and activities can leave us drained or guilty for not doing what we had planned to do. They can

become just one more thing to be done before Christmas. Instead we can scale way back and use Advent as a time for revisiting the basics. We can try to do just a few things, but do them well rather than going through the motions. So, here are some suggestions to make our preparations for Christmas more meaningful and fruitful:

1. **Go to daily Mass.** If you can, try and get to Mass a few days during the week. Definitely come to our Simbang Gabi Masses at 7:30PM. They will begin on December 16th.

2. **Go to Confession.** In our church, there will be a Parish Advent Reconciliation service on December 14th (Friday) at 7:00PM. We will have extra priests (Salesians) to help us to be individually reconciled with God and one another. Encourage Confirmation students to come. Make sure that younger CCD students will be present for their confessions on Sunday, December 16th after 8:30AM Mass. Cleansing and strengthening your soul is a wonderful way for preparing for Christmas.

3. **Spend some time on a personal prayer.** You can visit our Adoration Chapel and pray there in quietness. If you can spare five or ten minutes, try and spend them before the Lord in quietness. This is a great opportunity to renew your weary spirit and get some peace. Or even at home, instead of sitting in front of the television we can hold off for a few minutes to spend some quality time with the Lord, letting Him speak.

4. **Pray the rosary.** If you've fallen out of the habit of praying the rosary, Advent is a great time for picking it back up. Even a decade of the rosary each day is better than nothing.

5. **Giving Tree.** This year donations offered at the Giving Tree will benefit victims of Typhoon Josie in Bataan, Philippines and victims of wild fires in Mendocino (Shasta and Redding Diocese). Please consider helping those in great need.

One more thing: If you are feeling overwhelmed and overburdened about all the things you need to do before Christmas, perhaps you need to re-evaluate things. Do you really have to accept every invitation you get? Can you delegate some of your responsibilities? So often we want to control everything and/or make everything "just so" which puts extra stress and pressure on ourselves. Maybe the secret to finding more meaning this Advent is letting go. The purpose of Advent isn't to make people happy or to manufacture warm memories. Those are *incidentals* that happen automatically when we focus on the real thing: preparing our hearts to greet the infant Lord.

THIS WEEKS INTENTIONS

Sat	Dec 8	Moniz Family (Thanksgiving) Adoracion Amores (healing) Ligaya Alejandrino + Loreta Endaya + Inocencia Sanchez +
Sun	Dec 9	8:30 AM Elnora Lunasco + Criselda Lunasco + 11:00 AM Corazon Gulinao (Thanksgiving) Winefredo Boter (Thanksgiving) 12:30 Mass for Parishoners
Mon	Dec 10	Nelia Fausto (BD)
Tue	Dec 11	Elvi Nitollama (surgery) Nina Ricci + Epitacio Alarcon+ All Souls in Purgatory
Wed	Dec 12	Teresita Resley +
Thu	Dec 13	Ligaya Alejandrino +
Fri	Dec 14	
Sat	Dec 15	Ligaya Alejandrino +
Sun	Dec 16	8:30 AM Elmer Lunasco + Bong Lunasco + 11:00 AM Guillermo Ramos + 12:30 Mass for Parishoners

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Second Sunday of Advent
Monday:	International Human Rights Day
Tuesday:	St. Damasus I
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thursday:	St. Lucy
Friday:	St. John of the Cross

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

PARISH RECONCILIATION ON DECEMBER 14 AT 7 PM

Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin, all hope consists in confession; in confession there is a chance for mercy.

Reconciliation is a love story of God's mercy and your victory over sin.



RICHES are the instrument of all vices, because they render us capable of putting even our worst desires into execution.—St. Ambrose

LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday collection (for general operating expenses)
Collected **\$1,967.00**

Restricted donations for: (Liability Insurance)
\$1,013.00

Baptism	200.00
Gift Shop	1,038.90
Votive candles	170.00
Adoration Chapel	122.00
St. Anne (donation box)	42.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT!
Next Week's 2nd Collection: Retirement for Religious

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Look around most Catholic churches, and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistery, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth, and the other his death. There are only three nivities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John's birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke's Gospel of the angel's announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist's birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ's birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.



Be a part of greater involvement in the renewal of parish and family life. Be a member of over a million Catholic fraternal brotherhood. Be a Knight of Columbus. Join us .

Remember your loved ones on Simbang Gabi. Submit the names of your loved ones to Simbang Gabi Intentions coordinator or call the Parish office to be included in Simbang Gabi Intentions.

PRE-BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS & GODPARENTS

-If you are planning to have your child baptized, parents and godparents need to attend a Pre-baptism Class. Parents must be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Call the Parish office for more information. For Baptism Classes call Paul Groff at (510) 915-1372



Name _____
Address _____
____ Updating Parish Information

Welcome New Parishioners !

If you are not currently registered, please take a moment to fill this out and return it to the parish office, or you may drop it in the collection basket.

Phone _____
City _____ ZIP Code _____
____ Send Sunday Envelopes

____ New Parishioner
____ New Address
____ Put on mailing list

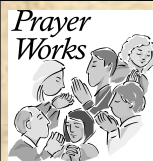
Q. What did Jesus Christ mean when He said He would sit at the "right hand of the Father" after His ascension into heaven.



Catholic Answer Q33

A. He meant He was God. But you must consider the spiritual background to arrive at that conclusion. In His dealings with the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus reserved this most dramatic assertion for the very end of His trial before the Sanhedrin. He had answered the accusation of the high priest that He had claimed He was the Christ, the Son of God, with the strongest possible affirmation. "You have said so," an idiom in His language with the same meaning as our modern slang, "You said it." It was then that He went on to indicate that He was God by saying He would be seen "at the right hand of the Father... Father being understood by all present as meaning the one true Father God. But what most probably caused the high priest to cry "Blasphemy!" was that He also said He would be seen "coming on the clouds of heaven." This was a reference to the vision of the Prophet Daniel, chapter 7, verse 13, of one like the Son of Man to whom was given "everlasting dominion," and who came on the clouds of heaven. He was claiming to be God, which in their court was just what they wanted.

To sit at the right hand of any ruler has always meant being honored, probably for the primordial reason that there are more right-handed people than there are left-handed. But in the context of Daniel's vision, Jesus used the expression to proclaim His equality (twin thrones) with God the Father. The Church uses the expression "right hand of the Father" in both the Apostles' and the Nicene Creed to affirm Christ's equality with the Father and consequent divinity.



Requesting Your Prayers

Gary Anderson, Corazon Ariosa, Corazon Belisario, Dulce Bufete, Jack Burns, Ed & Eliz Coyne, Erlinda Dizon, Priscilla Da Rosa, Belen Escondo, Lydia Estanislao, Cora Estanislao, Eddie Exevea, Nilda Falero, Arnel Flores, Avelino Gapsin, Mercedita Querubin, Erlinda Howard, Carmelita Joseph, Irma Lobitana, Ellie Lezama, Willie Orpiano, Pacita Macasieb, Geri Murchison, Ruben Mislano, Edward Mejia, Gail Ocasion, Frances Pangelinan, Rosy Pereira, Aida Pineda, Romeo Camantigue, Mercedita Querubin, Maritess Sanchez, Minda Santos, Ursula Santos, Augusto Uy, George Ybanez. Let us thank God for what doesn't need healing.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
WHO MAKE OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN POSSIBLE
This week we extend our gratitude to
HOLY SEPULCHRE**

OLGC THROUGH THE YEARS

