

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today, we begin a new year of worship with the celebration of the first Sunday of Advent. In advent the Church asks us to prepare for the first and the second comings of the Lord. Today, the church has given us these readings to help us to remain faithful to our Christian lives as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

In the first reading, prophet Isaiah calls upon God to continue to be the father and redeemer of his people and to provide for them and help them to remain faithful to his covenant. He sees God as the only redeemer to save his people from what they have brought on themselves. Their hearts have become hardened but God can break through that. The point is, Isaiah wants God to wake the people up to what God is trying to form them to be; his faithful people.

In this advent and throughout this year of worship the Church wants us to be aware that God is the potter forming the clay of our lives and as such we have wake up to what God is trying to form us to be; his beloved and faithful people. Let us always remember that no matter our shortcomings, weaknesses and temptations God can break through them. We only have to invite him into our lives, open the door of our heart for him to enter.

Jesus, in the gospel reading, tells us to be watchful and alert as we prepare for his coming. In the short parable in the gospel reading Jesus demonstrates what this constant watchfulness should be. A man leaving home places his servants in charge each with his own work and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. The servants are to be on the alert all throughout the night lest he come suddenly and find them

asleep. Jesus wants us to be attentive to his presence any time. He does not want us to forget what is expected of us as Christians—faithfulness.

As we prepare for the Lord's coming in history; to celebrate Christmas and his coming in majesty; his second coming let us remain faithful to our duties in life and not grow slack.

In the second reading, Paul tells the Corinthians and us that we have been given all the graces necessary to enable us to be found worthy to meet Christ when he comes again as judge of the universe.

“I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

If we remain faithful to our Christian faith; to our brothers and sisters and fellowship with Christ, we will have all the necessary graces of God throughout our lives.

Let us persevere in our faith in spite of the challenges we face. Let us be active, up and doing what our Christian religion demands of us and allow the Lord to shape and redirect our lives throughout the advent season and the whole year of worship.

I wish all of you a fruitful Advent Season.