

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: ADVENT PREPARATION

PRAYERS

- I. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.”
- II. “Prayer to the Holy Spirit”
- III. Saints and Virtue:
 - A. Pope Saint Clement
 - B. Attentiveness (Vigilance)

SACRED SEVEN – TRUE/FALSE

- __ 1. In the Catholic Liturgy, Advent refers to the coming or arrival of Christ. T
- __ 2. We know that Christ has come in the past, and will come again in the future, but that He does not in any way come presently. F
- __ 3. In the contemporary Church, the season of Advent is exactly as long as the season of Lent. F
- __ 4. A priest must vest exclusively in a violet color for every Sunday of Advent. F
- __ 5. It is appropriate and just, it is right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to God. T
- __ 6. Christ and the Church is necessary for Christians to be freed from sin and receive a heavenly inheritance, but Christ and His Church are not necessary for non-Christians to be freed from sin and receive a heavenly inheritance. F
- __ 7. The celebration of the Christmas Season begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving. F

ADVENT PREPARATION

- I. Three Advents:
 - A. First—In Flesh and weakness: Incarnation/Birth/Life/Death
 1. Crib
 2. Cross
 3. Manifest in the Flesh outside of us
 - B. Second—In Spirit and in Power: Sacramental Mysteries
 1. Body/Blood/Soul/Divinity
 2. Holy Spirit of Baptism/Confirmation

3. Comes to the soul in hiddenness, hides in members of His Body by grace—sanctification/divinization
4. Christ now is disguised yet manifest (unveiled) through the words and signs of the Sacraments and the through the Spirit Who directs the words and works of
in mystery, both concealed and

Holy
Christians—He is,
revealed

- C. Third—In Glory and Majesty for Judgment (Called the Second Coming as it refers exclusively to Christ the Head, not to the members of His Body, in whom He will have come to

full stature— perfection):

1. Majestic (Glory)
2. Terrible (Judgment)

II. Preparation—Moving toward God as God comes toward us:

A. Living the Annunciation and Visitation:

1. Mary (“Full of Grace”) moved herself and all mankind toward God through holiness of life and love of God and
and self: “Be it done unto me according to

neighbor
Thy Word.”

- a. Prayer—Communicating with God—listening/asking/obeying
- b. Fasting—Being “empty” in regards to the world, she is filled with grace to welcome the Holy Spirit and
Word Made Flesh—emptiness in regards to
leads to fullness in regards to grace
- c. Filled with grace and God, Mary went with haste to assist Elizabeth in her pregnancy, that others
filled with grace and God
- d. Mary’s personal engagement in love/truth/freedom/life with God (F-S-HS)/angels/saints = Life as Liturgy
- e. Joining with Mary is the pattern of the Church at prayer in all Liturgies and throughout all Liturgical
she is Mother of the Church as

the
worldliness

may be

Seasons—
Mother of Christ the

Head

2. Advent plan for children of God the Father and of Mary our Mother:
 - a. Prayer—Mass/Eucharistic Adoration/Liturgy of the Hours/Rosary/Devotions

- b. Fasting and Abstinence—Especially Wednesdays and Fridays
 - c. Almsgiving—Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
 - B. Essential Goal = Purity of Heart—To See God:
 - 1. Contrition/Confession/Penance (Pure vision)
 - 2. Being more like Christ for others and seeing Christ in others:
 - a. Sin—Disfigures and covers the likeness of Christ’s image in us
 - b. We cannot be Christ for others if we fail to see Christ in ourselves, first; in others, second.
 - c. Advent in the world now = Christ coming to full stature in each individual (sanctification), in the Church communion), and in the world shepherds/wise men/Egyptians—Jews and Gentiles)
 - 3. We live in the end times to recall his Incarnation, to enable the Incarnate Word to come to full stature in us and prepare ourselves and the world for His coming again and judgment

TABLE TALK QUESTION

Why does God not reveal to us the day or hour that His Son will return in glory and judgment?

FINAL COMMENTS/PRAYER/BLESSING