

December 1-2, 2007

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

Hope and vigilance, anticipation and preparation...key elements as we cross the threshold of the NEW liturgical year. With the lighting of the first candle on our Advent Wreath we signal our hopefulness for what the New Year will bring. Within this month of December nature will throw the darkest, longest night of the year at us...and we will patiently light more and more candles and luminaries...even going so far as to bedeck our homes and outdoor trees with luminous strands of hope. In an unspoken statement of hopeful anticipation we illumine our world so that we can see and celebrate what it will bring. Advent presents us with a fresh start, a blank slate. Like the corn-flake commercial encouraging us to 'try them again for the first time'; in Advent we get to start the story of faith in Jesus Christ all over again. We will hear the faith-story of the Angel presenting God's offer to Mary, of her acceptance, of Joseph being counseled to not abandon that which he cannot understand, of an anxious night with little shelter, of hope and redemption being born into the world in a tiny infant...who immediately needed protection from the forces that would seek to destroy him. Once Advent concludes we will once again ponder the statements, teachings and actions of the ADULT Jesus...and have the opportunity to consider who he is to each of us...not who he is to others...but who he is to US as individuals. While the commercial qualities of the season may occasionally overwhelm us, is there anyone amongst us who does not look hopefully to the New Year? Wouldn't it be great if the Iraq War would end? Wouldn't it be wonderful if this year we cured cancer? Wouldn't it be great if there was breakthrough in energy technology that would free us from oil? Wouldn't it be great if.....

'They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again....let us walk in the light of the Lord.'

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community as we ADVENT into the New liturgical year. To help you in your Advent journey, Paulist Press is on site this weekend with an array of reading material and Advent-appropriate gifts. Next weekend, CONCERN THIRD WORLD HANDARTS will be here offering for sale their gift items...some really good stuff, and it helps indigenous people pull themselves up by the bootstraps. Please take a Bulletin with you for the entire scoop on ADVENT happenings, the Rectory open House on the 16th, the Parish Penance Services on the 18th and of course the full Christmas weekend schedule. As you light your candles, your homes and your trees, remember, you are loved. FKB