

ADVENT REFLECTION

Waiting!! I don't know if you are like me, but if there is one way that I quickly lose patience; it is waiting. We wait for so many things in life- that phone from a loved one, a better job, for an improvement in health, for this pandemic to be over. Sometimes we just want to give up.

Maybe it is a good idea to just try to wait in God. The First Sunday of Advent begins this year on November 28. When we read our Christian Scriptures in the Bible we hear words of hope: "The Lord is waiting to show you favor and he rises to pity you: For the Lord is God of justice: blessed are all who wait in him." Is. 30: 18 and in the Book of Psalms we read "I trust in the Lord, my soul trusts in his word. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the dawn." Ps. 130: 5. Just think how long God's people waited to enter the promised land for the coming of Christ.

In my complaining about waiting, I have not had to wait as long as my ancestors in faith did. It appears that our forefathers and foremothers understood the wisdom of waiting. They just didn't wait passively, but they waited in hope and trust in God to lead them. They believed that one day, in God's time they would see their hopeful waiting fulfilled. This is what I call waiting in HOPE.

Keep in mind waiting is not necessarily passive. What positive ways is the Spirit guiding you/me to be positive as we wait, especially this Advent 2021, as we prepare for the Coming of the Lord? Maybe this Advent we can wait in hope, faith, and love. Maybe our waiting is not exactly what we are waiting for, but what God might be showing us. As God waits for us to see.

My great aunt gave me a small plaque that reads: "I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life; God gave me life, that I might enjoy all things." Maybe Advent should not be about what we can expect from life, but what life can expect from us. *Sr. Andre*

This year, as we begin the season of Advent, you will see banners on the pillars of the church. The words on these banners are known as the O Antiphons. Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited preceding the Magnificat of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation for Christmas - Dec 17-23 with Dec 24. being Christmas Eve for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil. The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah. (O **S**apientia) O Wisdom, (O **A**donai) O Lord, (O **R**adix Jesse) O Root of Jesse, (O **C**lavis David) O Key of David, (O **O**riens) O Radiant Dawn, (O **R**ex Gentium) O King of the Nations and (O Emmanuel) O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, Tomorrow I will come. Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us. Tomorrow, I will come. So, the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation but bring it to a joyful conclusion.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2021 – 2022

NOVEMBER 27-28 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(SAT) 5 pm Mass at St. Matthew

(SUN) 9 am **LIVESTREAM** Mass at St. Matthew 11 am Mass at Blessed Sacrament

DECEMBER 4-5 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(SAT) 5 pm Mass at St. Matthew (*Fair Trade after Mass*)

(SUN) 9 am Mass at St. Matthew (*Fair Trade after Mass*)

11 am **LIVESTREAM** Mass at Blessed Sacrament

1 pm Listening Session for the Synod – Saint Matthew church hall

DECEMBER 11-12 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(SAT) 5 pm Mass at St. Matthew

(SUN) 9 am **LIVESTREAM** Mass at St. Matthew 11 am Mass at Blessed Sacrament

DECEMBER 18-19 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(SAT) 5 pm Mass at St. Matthew

(SUN) 9 am **LIVESTREAM** Mass at St. Matthew 11 am Mass at Blessed Sacrament

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

5 pm **LIVESTREAM** Mass at St. Matthew

7:30 pm Mass at Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am Mass at St. Matthew

NO 5 PM VIGIL MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY FOR SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

9 am Mass at St. Matthew

11 am **LIVE STREAM** MASS at Blessed Sacrament

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

5 pm Vigil Mass at St. Matthew

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

10 am Mass at St. Matthew

5 pm *Vigil Mass for Epiphany* at St. Matthew

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9 am Mass at St. Matthew

11 am **LIVESTREAM** MASS at Blessed Sacrament

JANUARY 8-9 – FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

(SAT) 5 pm Mass at St. Matthew

(SUN) 9 am **LIVESTREAM MASS** at St. Matthew 11 am Mass at Blessed Sacrament