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Richie Santiago
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ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Kiln



December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Masses

- Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
- Sunday: 8am, 10:30am
- Weekday Mass: 8:00am (Chapel)
 (Monday-Friday, Rosary after)
- First Tuesday: Anointing of the Sick
 (of the Month) Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 (after 8am Mass)
- Fridays: Devotion To Sacred Heart (Before Benediction)

Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 pm
 (Before Sunday Masses and by Appointment)

Adoration
 Tuesday: 8:30am - 6:00pm
 Friday: 8:30am - 9:30am

Office Hours
 Mon-Friday: 8:30am - 12:30pm
 Wednesday: 8:30am - 12:00pm

Parish Secretary: Rachel Barnett
 CCD Director: Kelly Schwartz
 CYO Director: Juanita Curet
 RCIA Director: Robin Griffith



First Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S READING'S

Reading 1 IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm - PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading 2 - 1 COR 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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. He will keep you firm to the end, irrefragable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel - MK 13:33-3 Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’

Reflections:

In today’s Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people. Today’s readings are relatively brief. Their language and “message” are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God’s covenant, their inability to save themselves. And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can’t we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today’s Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel’s sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love. In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see John 14:8–9). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see John 10:11–15) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ’s final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him.

So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning repeated three times by our Lord in today’s Gospel: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

The First Week of Advent Candle

Advent Candle 1 stands for hope, and specifically, the Israelites' hope that the promised Messiah would come. They had been waiting for the Messiah for centuries, wondering what he would look like and what he would do when he arrived. When Jesus was born, that hope was finally fulfilled – “a prophet like you” ([Deuteronomy 18:15](#)) had come. How Jesus fit the prophecies the Israelites had been reading for centuries would become the critical conflict of His ministry – whether He fulfilled them and whether people had been reading them correctly.

Why Is it the Prophet’s Candle?

Candle 1 is the prophet’s candle (or “the prophecy candle”) because multiple Old Testament prophets had told people about the Messiah’s coming for a long time. Alfred Edersheim figured that 456 Old Testament passages reference the Messiah. Most scholars conservatively estimate that there are over 300 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament, some going back to Genesis. The prophecies gave specific details about the Messiah, details like: He would be born to a virgin mother ([Isaiah 7:14](#)) He would be born in Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#)) He would spend time in Egypt ([Hosea 11:1](#)) He would come from the house (i.e., the family line) of David ([Ezekiel 37:24](#)) He would start his ministry in Galilee ([Isaiah 9:1-2](#)) He would be the figure that Daniel referred to as “the Son of Man” ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)) He would teach “hidden things, things from of old” ([Psalm 78:1-2](#)) He would be holy, a rock that would make people stumble and fall because they didn’t believe in him ([Isaiah 8:14](#)) He would be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace ([Isaiah 9:6](#)) God would call him, “my son” ([2 Samuel 7:14](#)) ([Psalm 2:1-9](#)) He would gather the Israelites back together ([Isaiah 11:12](#)) . The fact that the prophecies described God calling the Messiah his son and also that he would be called “mighty God,” became especially important. To be God’s son and called God himself would mean that the Messiah wasn’t just a new prophet like Elijah or an ordained warrior like David. The Messiah would be a divine figure. Since falsely claiming to be God was blasphemy, anyone claiming to be the Messiah had pretty big shoes to fill.

Prayer for Advent Week 1

Sometimes, having [special prayers for Christmas](#) helps us refocus on themes we have forgotten or shows us things we have forgotten. Here is a prayer for the first week of Advent as we remember the theme of hope: Lord Jesus, so often during this time of year, we are tempted not to focus on you. We have so much to do and prepare for, and the stress is often more challenging than we can bear. We are tempted to think that nothing will work out if we do not have control of everything right now. Remind us that in the end, our hope is not in the little things we do now. Our hope is in you, the perfect [Lamb of God](#), who was prophesied for hundreds of years and came exactly when you were supposed to. You were there before the world was created, you died on earth and came back to life, and sit at God the Father’s right hand today. Help us remember our inheritance as your followers and that regardless of our circumstances, that inheritance does not change. Show us how to put our hope in you this day, and find the long view of reality we need. We ask for these things in your name, Amen.

The Ladies Club will be taking candy orders for Christmas this weekend!		There will be a Special collection for Retirement fund for Religious Next weekend		Jesus Prayer Lord Jesus Christ , Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner	
	Church Cleaning Team 4 this week		COFFEE SHOP Come by and enjoy Coffee, Breakfast & fellowship. After 8am Mass	<i>Claiborne Hill Receipts</i> We appreciate dropping off your Claiborne Hill receipts! Thank you for your support. YTD \$483.01	

MASS INTENTIONS		Financial News		Prayer Request	
Saturday	December 2	Insurance	\$64,983.79	Donna Battaglia	Donald Koenenn
4pm-	Gene & Wilma Breazeale†	Diocesan Support	\$14,414.44	Emilee Battaglia	Patsy Ladner
Sunday	December 3	School Supplement	\$17,165.63	John Battaglia	Carol Moragas & family
8:00am-	Parishioners	Salaries, Utilities, & Other Expenses	\$137,482.04	Brandon Boudreaux	Wilmah Ncaise
10:30am-	Jean Lee †	Total Yearly Financial Obligations	\$234,045.90	Debbie Byrnes	Janet Palmer
Monday	December 4	Amount needed each Week	\$4,500.89	Kay Cerisier	Joy Patin
8:00am-	Deacon Lucien Moragas †	Last Sunday Collection	\$3,688.65	Michel Giardina	Abby Rolison
Tuesday	December 5	YTD Needed	\$211,541.47	Jennie Hoda	Brooke Rolison
8:00am-	Cross Johnson †	YTD Collected	\$182,111.46	Carla Santiago	Timothy Odom
Wednesday	December 6	YTD Shortfall	\$29,430.01	Konnor Peterson	Gayle Duet
8:00am-	Kay Cerisier			Ami Moran	Jean Dohm
Thursday	December 7			Steven Blaisdell	Dean Taylor
8:00am-	Virgie Lewis †			Elaine Meyer	Judy Thornton
Friday	December 8			Catherine Blaisdell	
8:00am-	Peggy & Larry Ladner			Colleen McGrath	
6:00pm-	Hugh Prats †				