

## **Mercy is Compassionate Love in action.**

Happy New Year! The Church began its new year last Sunday with the beginning of Advent, which means the Lord is coming.

So how did you spend your first week of this New Year? Did you make any resolutions? Did you keep them?

In the Gospel:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

We began the Season of Advent by lighting a candle to represent Christ, light of the world.

This season is a time for preparation in which we each try in our own way to become closer to and more like our savior Jesus Christ.

Each candle of the Advent Wreath reminds us of Christ’s message: Week: 1. Hope, 2. Peace, 3. Joy, and 4. Love, and that we are preparing for something very special.

1. Until December 16 we focus on preparing for Christ's Second Coming:

- If Jesus were to come tomorrow, would you and I be ready?
- When we come Face to Face with our Lord, will He see in us, His love being reflected back to Him?

2. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

- Jesus who is God came to us as a baby. Have you and I really contemplated that God came to us as a little baby?
- With Innocence, Wonder, Awe, Trust, Love, Beauty and Humility. That is what He wants from us.

St. Bernard writes: “We know that there are 3 comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible.

In the interval between the first and second coming of Christ, we find meaning of our life as a Christian.

Jesus loves us so much, that he wants to Touch, Hold and become part of us at each and every Mass in the Eucharist.

Through the miracle of transubstantiation, Jesus Loves Himself into the Bread and Wine so that it becomes His true Presence. He becomes part of us, so we can become part of Him to grow in love and service to each other.

Have we prepared ourselves each week to receive the true Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist?

St. Paul gives us a hint in the second reading:

“I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you.”

In this busy season of Advent, do we find the time to prepare for the **Comings of Christ** and His Kingdom that is with us now?

In Preparing for Christmas, we can become so busy buying or wrapping presents, shopping, preparing food, writing cards.

Do we remember we are doing these things for people we love?

Do we do it with joy and offer it as a prayer for the people we are doing it for, or do we just get caught in the busyness.

When someone needs help, do we stop and say, this is the reason for advent, preparing ourselves to serve others.

St. Paul says “And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more.

Does our love increase everyday? Think about it, when we say I love you – how much love is that, is it a finite thing that we achieve or is it something that continues to grow each day. How can love remain constant?

One of the greatest gifts we have is our time - Time for good prayer, Time for helping someone in need, Time for listening to another, or Time with being with someone.

As we begin the "Year of Mercy" we should remember this simple definition of Mercy. **Mercy is Compassionate Love in action.**

So in this Year of Mercy is important for us to Practice Mercy!

Perhaps this Advent Season we can decide to do something for someone to help them directly understand God’s Love, Compassion and Mercy.

Remember to stop into the Church or Adoration Chapel to spend Time with Jesus, thanking Him for His Mercy and all our Blessings.

Come Lord Jesus Come, Now and Forever, Amen!