



## ***1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT*** ***YEAR B – DECEMBER 3, 2017***

Today we begin a new Advent Season. As we light each candle on the Advent Wreath, it reminds us that we are getting closer and closer to celebrating the birthday of the most important person who ever came into our world. His name is Jesus. We believe he is the Son of God, the Savior of our world.

If the law at the time of his birth had been carried out, Mary would have been stoned to death and Jesus would never have been born. Abortion would have saved her from that law and spared her the shame she faced in her community from the Facebook and Twitter crowd of that time. In spite of all that, Mary did not kill her child. The child was conceived “out of wedlock” and the law said his mother must be stoned to death. But St. Joseph ignored that man-made law and the rest of the story is history.

Fast forward now to present tenses. *We have a law* - a law in our country that says, if a child is conceived but not wanted, we cannot put the mother or father to death (after all we are civilized), but we can put the child to death. *We have a law*.

That law is Roe v Wade and since it was passed in 1974, more than 59 million children have been put to death in these United States. The “*law*” says we can do that. We killed fifty-nine million children. That’s more than the total population of Italy, Poland and 210 other countries as well.

Did you ever wonder who might be among those who were killed? Could it be someone who is born poor like our Lord, and then grows up to be the right person at the right time to deal with the problems of our time? Could it be someone who would find a cure for cancer, or aids, or a pandemic that has not yet hit our planet; but someday will? Or could it be the mom or dad of a child who is destined to do those kinds of things a hundred years from now; things that only that child can do.

Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother Mary because that was the safest place for the son of God to begin his life. The womb of a mother in our country today, is no longer the safest place for some children to begin their lives. Could the words of Isaiah, the prophet, in the first reading today (Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 94:2-7) be meant for us too, “Lord God ...you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt.” There are consequences for sin.

St. Paul tells us in the second reading (1Corinthians 1:3-9); there is still hope. As we wait for the second coming of our Lord, Paul tells us, “...Jesus will keep us firm to the end.” He will not abandon us. In the Gospel today (Mark 13:33-37) Jesus gives us good advice, he says, “Be watchful! Be alert!” Be prepared!

Our challenge now is to use this Advent Season to properly prepare again, to celebrate the first coming of Jesus. There is much to do. What are the things in your life that need to change while there is still time?

Take time also, to pray for our unborn brothers and sisters who look forward to *their own birth day*. *May they live* to learn what Christmas is all about and one day, celebrate the birthday of Jesus with great Joy.

