

THE PARABLE OF THE WALK IN THE FOG

Have you heard of the PARABLE OF THE WALK IN THE FOG? At the end of my last weeks' column, "TIME TO WALK IN THE LIGHT OF HOPE", I told the story of my walking every morning on the jetty leading to Salem's Harbor. Let me summarize this story; *"About 11 years ago, I was assigned as seminarian at Immaculate Conception Parish in Salem, right next to the harbor. Every morning, I enjoyed praying while walking on the long, narrow jetty leading to a lighthouse. One morning, despite a THICK FOG, I still chose to walk to the lighthouse. I could not see further than three feet ahead. I could not see the lighthouse at all, but walking very slowly, I finally reached it."*

To draw some lessons, let us see this story as a PARABLE so that we can all use our imagination:

FIRST, imagine that the LIGHTHOUSE is the HOUSE OF JESUS, a reminder that JESUS is our LIGHT. He himself proclaims: "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD". A lighthouse is built so as to guide ships caught in major storms. It helps them to find a secure and peaceful harbor away from the high winds and huge waves.

SECOND, imagine that the JETTY is THE NARROW WAY TO HEAVEN. On each side of the jetty are the dangerous waves where we can drown. When we keep walking and finally arrive at the end of the jetty, this is our encounter with Jesus before entering Heaven.

THIRD, imagine that the FOG is the WORLD AROUND US, the world of temptations and sinfulness, which makes us SPIRITUALLY BLIND to the Reality of God.

Using the above spiritual meanings of lighthouse, jetty and fog, we can draw three broad categories of LESSONS for our ADVENT JOURNEY:

1. HAVE FAITH ...and then HOPE! One practical reason why I decided despite the thick FOG to walk toward the LIGHTHOUSE, the House of God, is that I knew that the LIGHTHOUSE was there. I had seen it before and though the FOG kept it hidden, I was confident; I believed that it was there and that I could reach it. We know that FAITH is the foundation, the ROCK of our Christian Life. While FAITH is a Gift from God, it can be lost in the "FOG" of our lives and such loss of Faith leads to spiritual paralysis. We also know from experience that FAITH LEADS TO HOPE. We believe that Heaven exists. Such Faith leads us to HOPE that one day we can reach Heaven (though we have no certitude).

2. HOPE ...and PERSEVERE! We all BELIEVE that Heaven (the House of God, the Lighthouse) exists. We all HOPE that we will be among those God chooses to be

with HIM forever and ever (able to reach the LIGHTHOUSE). However, this does not prevent us from losing HOPE. When faced with the temptations of the world (SURROUNDED BY FOG) , we may not be able to resist them and then have to pay the consequences of our sinful actions such as suffering , envy, anger , or major addiction (alcohol, drugs, sex, gambling, gluttony). HOPE is not sufficient. We need to keep FAITH that God always LOVES US and that HE is the only one who can help us. We need to PERSEVERE. We need to keep the DESIRE TO CHANGE, to TURN TOWARD GOD, to CONVERT!

3. WALK SLOWLY , PRAY, KEEP your EYES ON JESUS, and you can see HIS LIGHT through the FOG of your lives. Know your personal limitations and weaknesses. Make a daily EXAMEN as recommended by St. Ignatius of Loyola. PRAY so as to make the right choices, the right decisions following the movements of the HOLY SPIRIT in your heart, instead of following your own will and selfish interests. Read the Scriptures! Meditate in silence. Slow down! Despite the slow walk, you may still fall down (I could have fallen off the jetty into the rocks and strong waves). Recognize your errors and sins. GO to CONFESSION. RECONCILE WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS HURT YOU!

Depending on your own experience and on where you are today in your life (peace, joy, love or challenges, disappointments, loneliness, hopelessness, loss of purpose, depression, physical illness, family disputes, loss of a loved one), you may draw specific, personal lessons, for your own Advent Journey. It does not have to be many lessons: a single one may help you TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE. ADVENT is a TIME TO CHANGE, A TIME TO TURN TOWARD GOD, A TIME TO BECOME A MORE RADICAL AND INTENTIONAL DISCIPLE OF CHRIST! Jesus says to each one of us: "WAKE UP, GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE, SACRIFICE YOUR TIME FOR OTHERS, FOLLOW ME EVERY DAY!

As we light the THIRD CANDLE, THE ROSE ONE of the Advent Wreath, we are reminded that today is GAUDETE SUNDAY. GAUDETE in Latin means simply: REJOICE! Let us all REJOICE in our LORD JESUS CHRIST! JESUS IS OUR JOY! COME LORD JESUS! COME!



One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Third Sunday of Advent



CCD Class Schedule

Dec. 15/16- CCD Classes

Dec. 22/23- No CCD Classes

Dec. 29/30- No CCD Classes

Jan. 5/6- CCD Classes

Community Outreach

We are still in need of boxed stuffing, Mac& cheese and potato dishes (no mashed, please) for the Christmas food baskets.

A donation box is in the lobby near the office. Thank you!

Also please consider volunteering to deliver one or two food baskets on December 22 after the 10a.m. Mass.

Thank you in advance.!

The next Shepherd's Table is December 19 at Good Shepherd Church.

The next Outreach meeting is January 2, 2020 at 7 p.m. In the Fr. Martin Hall. Everyone is welcome!

2020 Calendars

Are available in the Narthex. Please take one home with you today!

Christmas Flowers

All parishioners are invited to make a donation in honor or remembrance of loved ones this Advent. Your donations will offset the cost of the poinsettias used to decorate our church for Christmas. Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing, see a member of the Altar Guild in the Narthex or stop by the office.

~Pre-school News~

The Christmas tree is up in the office hallway!

We are collecting new: children's **pajamas, robes, slippers, and socks** to be donated to Children's Aid. New socks, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages will be gratefully accepted, appreciated, and delivered, too.

Novena Masses

Join us for our 7th Annual Christmas 9 Day Novena Masses beginning Saturday December 14 - Sunday December 22, 2019 at 7pm to prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas through the gift of Mary. December 14,15 and 22 Mass preceded by the Posadas



Christmas Masses

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5 pm (Children's)

8 pm (Solemn Mass)

9:30 pm (Spanish)

12 am (Midnight Mass)

December 25 (Christmas Day)

8:30 am (Mass for Christmas)

10 am (Mass for Christmas)

11:30 (Spanish)

December 31(Mary, Holy Mother of God, Vigil)

5 pm Mass

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

8:30 am

10 am



We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 Doris Chesley
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Vicky Welch
 Naomi Lilly
 Sterling Greene
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Rosano Wheeler
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Pat Fisher
 Christ Goldhammer

Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dinnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 K.D. Dillard
 Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Mary Dooley
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren

Marie Marie Bottorf
 Joy Cooper
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Patricia Sutton
 Trena Price
 Michael Sofield Jr.
 Norm Green
 Mary A. Dyson
 Jim Lavish
 The Dixons

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.
Please let us know if any names should be removed from the list.



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, December 14, 9:00AM: Moussi Family
 Saturday, December 14, 5:00 PM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
 Sunday, December 15, 8:30 AM: Souls in Purgatory
 Sunday, December 15, 10:00 AM: Renato Bassig
 Sunday, December 15, 11:30 AM: Julie Blew (+)
 Sunday, December 15, 1:00 PM: Tonye Tonye Patou (+)
 Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory
 Monday, December 16, 9:00 AM: Phyllis LeSesne (+)
 Tuesday, December 17, 9:00 AM: Jose & AnnaMarie Gonzales & family
 Wednesday, December 18, 9:00 AM: Larry Ferdinand Pickering (+)
 Thursday, December 19, 9:00 AM: Andrews family
 Friday, December 20, 9:00 AM: Andre Jean Louis (+)

Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?

(Matthew 11:3)

Tuesday Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Wednesday Scripture Study - The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass

First Friday - The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is said in Latin. This Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood.

First Saturday - Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy - Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

Mass Readings for December 22, 2019.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

***First Reading**

Isaiah – 7:10-14

***Second Reading**

Romans 1:1-7

***Gospel**

Matthew 1:18-24



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Youth Ministry: Questions, please contact Marlen marlen@olhoc.org

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (meets most Sundays 5-6:30 pm, check website for other dates)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

FIAT: Faith in Action Team elementary school ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

For more info and an updated list of our events please visit www.olhoc.org/yevents

To Join Our Youth Core & Support Team, please visit our website or talk to Marlen Coles. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ!

Time to Request Spots for Camp Covecrest - August 2-8, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia For more details and a video on this transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith visit www.olhoc.org/camp2020 Questions, please contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org



*Pray the Rosary
daily*

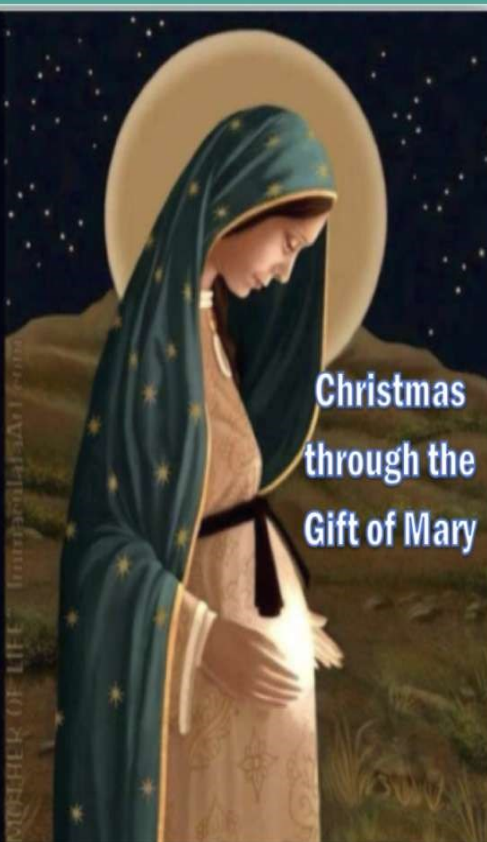


7th Annual Christmas 9 Day Novena Masses

December 14 - 22 Mass at 7 pm

*"Mary said,
'Behold,
I am the
handmaid
of the Lord.
May it be
done to me
according to
Your word.'"*

Lk 1:38



December 14, 15 & 22

**Mass preceded by
Posadas at 6:30 pm**

December 22

**Reception follows
after the Mass
Fr Martin Hall**

