

December 6, 2020

IS JESUS COMING TODAY?

Last week, I suggested that this Advent we focus on preparing the Way of the Lord to receive Him in our hearts while we keep praying: "COME LORD JESUS". When we pray these three powerful words, do we think of Jesus's first coming at Christmas (The Perfect Gift) or do we think of Jesus' second coming at the end of time, the Day of Final Judgment? Or are we simply asking Jesus to come and stay in our own hearts right NOW? When is Jesus coming? IS JESUS COMING TODAY?

I was invited to give an Advent talk to a group of young Catholic women earlier this week. By coincidence (or God's incidence) I was asked to talk about "ADVENT AND THE COMING OF JESUS: COME LORD JESUS!" The interesting part was not my talk (it is always difficult for me to connect in virtual meetings, when unable to see the reactions of individuals) but rather the questions and reflections by the participants.

I will share only some of the takeaways from our discussion: it does not matter where we live, it does not matter what are our personal circumstances, we all face sufferings (including some linked to the pandemic) but our Faith in God, our Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ gives all of us HOPE. When we truly seek the presence of God in our lives, we find out that OUR LORD JESUS IS ALREADY within us. HE HAS ALREADY COME. HIS SPIRIT IS ALWAYS WITHIN US even when we feel abandoned and cannot find His Love. As I had mentioned in my talk the great example of Mother Teresa (the Saint I call my friend) in loving the poor, and seeing in each of them the face of Christ, some participants commented on how they have found Jesus through other people assisting them in unexpected and loving ways.

So the question is no longer when has our Lord come, or when is he coming, or IS HE COMING TODAY? The real question is: have we already found Jesus? Have we found HIM in the faces and actions of our friends, family members, parish members, neighbors? Have we found the presence of Jesus when praying in silence? Have we found Jesus in our meditation on the Gospels? Have we found the face of Jesus in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? Have we found the Love of Jesus when receiving His Body in the Eucharist? Have people found Jesus in us?

Right now, today in December 2020 in Waldorf we live between these two comings of Christ. Like St Bernard 1,000 years ago, we can talk about a third coming of Christ, HIS COMING IN SPIRIT. Today, Jesus is not coming in the flesh as at Christmas. Today, Jesus is not coming in his glorified body as at the final judgment. Today, Jesus is coming in SPIRIT. Today we can meet Jesus in SPIRIT. His Holy Spirit is coming into our hearts: Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is also coming at every Mass. We cannot see Jesus at Mass. But we can feel His presence throughout the entire Mass and we can receive His Body in the EUCHARIST. Like Mother Teresa, we can see Christ today in others, and we can pray that others can see Christ in us.

Let us pray with Mother Teresa, the prayer that she prayed with her sisters every day at time of Communion:

*"Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine.*

*Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen."*

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain



### Religious Education News

We are already 1/3 of the way into CCD! Please continue your online classes. If you have any questions, please contact Nereida Tellechea at (301)645-7112, or email cre@olhoc.org

### Community Outreach

The OLHOC Outreach Committee wishes to thank everyone who donated cash or food to the Thanksgiving baskets. Your generosity was overwhelming! 50 turkey dinners were assembled by many volunteers, including our youth group, and delivered by parishioners on Nov. 22.

It is a wonderful testimonial to the faith of our parish in these extraordinary times! Also thanks go to Safeway Foods for again letting us use their shopping carts and to Giant for their generosity.

We are now collecting food for the Christmas baskets. Boxes are in the Narthex for mac & cheese, fruit cocktail, canned corn and peas, Stove Top Stuffing and boxed potatoes au gratin. Thank you OLHOC parishioners!

The next Outreach meeting will be on January 6, 2021.

### \*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\*\*\*

**-Sanitize your hands before coming into church**

**-Masks are mandatory**

**-Maintain at least a 6 ft distance**

**-If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on [www.olhoc.com](http://www.olhoc.com) -10 am on Sundays**

## Mass Opportunities

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception:**

**Tuesday December 8th**

**Mass are at 9 am, and 7 pm (Bilingual)**

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:**

**Saturday, December 12. In addition to the 9 am Mass, we will also have a Mass at 5 am**

### CA/RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm –9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Deacon Rich at [deacon@olhoc.org](mailto:deacon@olhoc.org) or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at [RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com](mailto:RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com)

We hope you will join us!

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**The Youth Support Team** is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events (hospitality, chaperones, fundraisers, prayer team..), confirmation mentors, or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website [www.olhoc.org/ymteam](http://www.olhoc.org/ymteam) or talk to Marlen Coles [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)

*Prepare the Way of the Lord!*  
**Christmas Novena Masses**  
*December 15-23 at 7 PM*

*Come Lord Jesus*

**We are asked to pray for:**

Julissa Bariantos  
 Brandon Mack  
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar  
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina  
 James Thompson  
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch  
 Joseph Albrittitan  
 Sid and Suszanna Marcus  
 Aleli Puzon  
 Patricia Delgado  
 Ann Marie Hobart  
 Larry McGraw  
 Ilene Custer  
 Derrick Webster  
 Julie Davis  
 David DeMarr  
 Dunnie Proctor  
 Amelia Vinceguerra  
 Lorraine Celijewski  
 Lorrin Green

Tabitha Barton  
 Maria Townsend  
 Chrystal Beauregard  
 Sheryl Carter  
 Alex Leon  
 Sharketer Butler  
 Steven Bowling  
 Edna Yarngo  
 Kathy Grimes  
 Sheny Padilla  
 Richard White  
 Victor Cordero  
 Georgiana Norgren  
 Marie Marie Bottorf  
 Dorian Webster  
 Dionne Gause  
 Billy Dexter  
 Trena Price  
 Erick M. Knapp  
 Norm Green

The Dixons  
 Grace Albrittain  
 Elaine Moses  
 Yvonne Buford  
 Karen Zimmerman  
 Steve Wyloge  
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette  
 Joanne Johnson  
 John Hoza  
 Mike Spurgeon  
 Mary A. Dyson  
 Kevin Viel Sr.

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

*Please pray for the soul of Margaret Champion*



**Mass Intentions this Week**

Saturday, December 5, 9:00AM: Edgar N.Mandap (+)  
 Saturday, December 5, 5:00 PM: Matthew Coles (+)  
 Sunday, December 6, 8:30 AM: Rachel Lapoint (+)  
 Sunday, December 6, 10:00 AM: Clifford M. Sofield Jr.  
 Sunday, December 6, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners  
 Sunday, December 6, 7:00 PM: Macharry Family  
 Monday, December 7, 9:00 AM: Roman Predrejivac (+)  
 Tuesday, December 8, 9:00 AM: Coles family  
 Wednesday, December 9, 9:00 AM: Joanna Ouedrago (+)  
 Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 PM: Orlando Lagman (+)  
 Thursday, December 10, 9:00 AM: Roman Predrejivac(+)  
 Friday, December 11, 9:00 AM: Roman Predrejivac (+)

**Mass intentions**

If you would like to have a Mass said in 2021, the calendar is open in the office. Sign up for the Mass you would like so as to assure the date you want is available. Suggested stipend is \$10

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

**Friday Scripture Study**- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

**First Friday**- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

**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.

**OLHOC Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to [office@olhoc.org](mailto:office@olhoc.org).

**Mass Readings for December 13, 2020**

***3rd Sunday of Advent***

**\*First Reading**

**Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11**

**\*Second Reading**

**1Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**\*Gospel**

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)**

