

First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2025



ON THE ADVENT OF OUR LORD AND ITS SIX CIRCUMSTANCES

TO-DAY we celebrate the beginning of Advent. The name of this great annual commemoration is sufficiently familiar to us ; its meaning may not be so well known.

....Consider Who He is that comes, whence He comes, to whom He comes, for what end He comes, when He comes, and in what manner He comes. This is undoubtedly a most useful and praiseworthy curiosity, for the Church would not so devoutly celebrate the season of Advent if there were not some great mystery hidden therein.

Wherefore, in the first place, let us with the Apostle consider in astonishment and admiration how great He is Who comes. According to the testimony of Gabriel, He is the Son of the Most High, and consequently a coequal with Him. Nor is it lawful to think that the Son of God is other than coequal with His Father. He is coequal in majesty; He is coequal in dignity. Who will deny that the sons of princes are princes, and the sons of kings ?

.....Not without some most deep counsel of the Blessed Trinity was it decreed that the Son should become Incarnate. If we consider the cause of our exile, we may perchance be able to comprehend in some degree how fitting it was that our deliverance should be chiefly accomplished by the Son...*by another's malice might still by another's charity be redeemed.*

But here I see that our Lord descends not only to earth, but even to hell; not as one bound, but as free among the dead; as light that shines in the darkness, " and the darkness did not comprehend it." Wherefore His soul was not left in hell, nor did His holy body on earth see corruption. For Christ " that descended is the same also that ascended . . . Well might St. Paul cry out : " Seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God." "€ In vain would the Apostle labour to raise our hearts upwards if he did not teach us that the Author of our salvation is sitting in heaven.

By considering Who He is that comes, we see His supreme and ineffable majesty, and by contemplating whence He comes, we behold the great high way clearly laid out to us. The Prophet Isaiah says : " Behold, the name of the Lord cometh from afar." By reflecting whither He comes, we see His inestimable and inconceivable condescension in His descending from highest heavens to abide with us in this miserable prison-house. Who can doubt that there was some grand cause powerful enough to move so sovereign a Majesty to come " from afar," and condescend to enter a place so unworthy of Him as this world of ours. The cause was in truth great. It was His immense mercy, His multiplied compassion, His abundant charity.

For what end must we believe that He came ? This question is the next in order to be examined ; nor will the search demand much labour, for the end and purpose of His coming is proclaimed by His words and His works. To seek after the one sheep of the hundred that had strayed He hastened from the mountains. For our sake He came down from heaven, that His mercies and His wonders might be openly proclaimed to the children of men. O wonderful condescension of God in this search ! O wonderful dignity of man who is thus sought ! If he should wish to glory in this dignity, it would not be imputed to him as folly. Not that he need think anything of himself, but let him rejoice that He Who made him should set so high a value on him. For all the riches and glory of the world, all that is desirable therein, is far below this glory — nay, can bear no comparison with it. " Lord, what is man that thou should magnify him? and why settest thou thy heart upon him"

It is now fitting that we should consider the time of our Lord's coming.

He came, as you know, not in the beginning, nor in the midst of time, but in the end of it. This was no unsuitable choice, but a truly wise dispensation of His infinite wisdom, that He might afford help when He saw it was most needed. Truly, " it was evening, and the day was far spent " the sun of justice had well-nigh set, and but a faint ray of his light and heat remained on earth. The light of Divine knowledge was very small, and as iniquity abounded, the fervour

of charity had grown cold. No angel appeared, no prophet spoke. The angelic vision and the prophetic spirit alike had passed away, both hopelessly baffled by the exceeding obduracy and obstinacy of mankind. Then it was that the Son of God said : " Behold, I come." And " while all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the midst of her course, the almighty word leaped down from heaven from thy royal throne." Of this coming the Apostle speaks : " When the fullness of time was come, God sent his Son."

You have now heard Who He is that comes, whence, whither, and to whom He comes ; the cause, likewise, and the time of His coming are known to you. One point is yet to be considered — namely, the way by which He came. This must be diligently examined, that we may, as is fitting, go forth to meet Him. As He once came visibly in the body to work our salvation in the midst of the earth, so does He come daily invisibly and in spirit to work the salvation of each individual soul ; as it is written : " The Spirit before our face, Christ the Lord." And that we might know this spiritual we shall live among the Gentiles/ Wherefore, if the infirm cannot go far to meet this great Physician, it is at least becoming they should endeavour to raise their heads and lift themselves a little to greet their Saviour. For this, O man, you are not required to cross the sea, to penetrate the clouds, to scale the mountain-tops. No lofty way is set before you. Turn within thyself to meet thy God, for the Word is nigh in thy mouth and in thy heart. Meet Him by compunction of heart and by confession of mouth, or, at least, go forth from the corruption of a sinful conscience, for it is not becoming that the Author of purity should enter there.

It is delightful to contemplate the manner of His humble visible coming, for His " ways are beautiful, and all his paths are peace/" " Behold," says the Spouse of the Canticles, " he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills." You see Him coming, O beautiful one, but His previous lying down you could not see, for you said : " Shew me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou liest/ He lay feeding His angels in His endless eternity with the vision of His glorious, unchanging beauty. ...From the mountains came forth the root of Jesse, as you will find from the Prophet Isaiah : " There shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root, and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." The same prophet speaks yet more plainly : " Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel, which is interpreted, ' God with us/ " He Who is first styled a flower is afterwards called Emmanuel, and in the rod is named the virgin."

- From St. Bernard of Clairvaux, (*Great Advent Sermons*)

Readings For First Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5

Reading II: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Readings For Second Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 11:1-10

Reading II: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

FINANCE

1st Collection= \$3,286

-This Week's 2nd Collection is for St. Vincent de Paul

-Next week's 2nd Collection is for Major Restoration Projects



Sacred Heart Rosary
Please join us! We are here every Tuesday at
11:30am in the Chapel

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday, November 29

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Sharon Read St Joseph Church

Sunday, November 30

7:30 am Mass for the People St. Joseph Church
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church
10:30am +Dianne Luzzi St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm(Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Monday, December 1

12:15pm +Msgr. Gerard Brady St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, December 2

7:30am John Fleming and Family St. Joseph Church

Wednesday, December 3

12:15 pm Int. Fr. Bernard D'Sa St. Bernard Church
6:00 pm 7pm Confessions & Adoration Sacred Heart
7:00 pm (Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Thursday, December 4

7:30 am +Larry Cloney St. Joseph Church

First Friday, December 5

12:15 pm +Dianne Luzzi St. Bernard Church
*followed by Adoration & Confessions...1-5pm
4:45 pm Benediction St Bernard Church

Saturday, December 6 - First Saturday Marian Devotion

8:30am No Intention Sacred Heart Church
3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Betty Lutje St Joseph Church

Sunday, December 7

7:30 am +Janet Fellingham St. Joseph Church
9:00 am Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church
10:30am +Donna, Ernie and Lisa Domingo St. Bernard
12:15 pm(Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Please Pray For: Rosemary Murphy, Eliana Omei, Pat Rider, Duane David, Thanh Strelow, Sally-Ann Thomas, Chaz Desoteau, Nagee Ellis, Theresa Martin, Jackeline Williams, Diane Kerr, Karla Kincade, Tammie Startare, Lynn Agajanian, Gary Agajanian, Linda Brown, Eliot Cabreon, Michael Arnold, Hatsue Riecke, Ray Moisa, Marion Adams, Adriana

Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

+Colleen Cruz +Joe Thompson +Gina Costa +Stella Reyes
+Mary Walsh+Rolly Luzame +Brenda Zwiefelhofer +
Louise Y. Russo, +Bernadette Chapman +Saturnina
Tetrault +Marie Giampaolo, +Tony Sistrom, +Marilyn
Zibilich, +Diacono Frank Weber +Felipe de Jesus Silva
Rodriguez +My-Hieu Venema +Avira Agata Concepta
Gomes +Colby Arnett +Lorraine Cooney, +Chris Scott,
+Sharon Omei, +Jim Cruz, +Deacon Jim Hercher, +Susan
Bonomini, +Peggy Kirkpatrick, +Paul McNally,
+Richard Kerr, +Ernestine Josephine
Hawthorne, +Adelena Ramos, +Msgr. Gerard
Brady, +Raul Moctezuma, +Robert Kerr



**St. Bernard Prayer Line – Please Call Allen / Illeen
at 707-442-6844 to pray with them for your
intentions**

**Are you interested in the Catholic faith, but aren't
sure what steps to take to find out more?** Perhaps
you have been attending mass with your spouse, are just
curious, or perhaps you were baptised when you were young,
but never received the Sacraments? Questions? Contact
Deacon Dance at (707) 407-9298

ST. VINCENT de PAUL THANKSGIVING THANK

YOU SVdP thanks everyone who has continued to support
our Outreach efforts in the community. Because of your
generosity at Sacred Heart, 50 families enjoyed a
Thanksgiving dinner this year. We thank Theresa Evans,
Richard Graey, Linda Bareilles, David Vina and
Georgeanne Fulstone-Pucillo for purchasing, assembling
and delivering these food bags. Thanks for your prayers,
also, and may God continue to bless us all.

A Thank You From Betty Chinn

Dear generous supporters, Once again you have been
Christ's Heart and hands, providing for our most vulnerable
citizens, housed and unhoused. Many of our friends and
neighbors were forced to choose between paying their rent
and utilities and buying food. Because of you, we were able
to provide food, shelter, job training, counseling and
addiction treatment. In a recent storm, 37 individuals were
grateful to sleep on cots and enjoy a warm meal right here
in our office. Please know that you continue to be in my
prayers during this Thanksgiving and always. Gratefully,
Betty Chinn

~ Upcoming Events ~

Invitation To Lectures On The Holy Mass

You are invited to a series of lectures by Joseph Zieminski
on the beauty and transcendence of the full presence of
Jesus Body, Blood Soul and Divinity in the Holy Mass on
Nov. 29th and Dec. 6th in the Pinochi Rm at St. Bernard
and Dec. 13th in the OCIA Rm upstairs at 2pm

Pancake Breakfast Sunday – December 7th



The St. Bernard Pancake Breakfast prepared by
the Knights of Columbus will be held on Sunday,
Dec 7th in St. Bernard Parish Hall. Breakfast is
served 8:30 am till 12. The menu includes pancakes, ham,
sausage, scrambled eggs and all the usual wonderful
trimmings! Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12
and \$25 for a family of 5 or more. The proceeds will go to
the St. Bernard Parish Building Fund

Knights of Columbus Christmas Dinner

The Eureka Knights of Columbus invites all local and retired
Knights and wives to the Christmas celebration on Saturday
Dec. 13th at the Pinochi Rm at St Bernard. The cost is **free**
for all local Knights and wives and \$20 for guests. As of
Dec 3rd it will be the 120th anniversary of the Eureka
Council (*one of the oldest in the state*) and we want to make
this a special celebration. If you know of any Knights who
need a ride please call and we will provide it. Please call
Johnny Hufancia (Grand Knight) with any questions or
requests. (707) 845-8935

Catholic Detention Ministries Donation Boxes

From Oct 26th-Dec.8th donation boxes will be in the churches
for Catholic Detention Ministries. They are requesting
donations of Christmas cards and small individually wrapped
candies. Please only unused Christmas cards with envelopes
for the use of the inmates of the Humboldt County Correctional
Facility. The facility requests that candies remain in their
unopened store packages in which they are sold for safety
reasons. This is a combined effort of the local Catholic
churches to put together 300 packages, one for each inmate.
This has been much appreciated by the inmates in the past.
Please leave donations at the church or church office **no later
than Monday Dec. 8th**. Info: call or email St Mary Church-
Arcata (707) 822-7696