

**NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Psalm 25

1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Begin With the End

The new year of the Church begins today. As I always tell you the new year for Christians does not begin January First. For those who know, the First Sunday of Advent begins a new cycle of scripture readings, prayers, celebrations and, hopefully, spiritual, and moral growth. In three years' time we will have read through the Bible and wind up back here with the readings we read today. Yet, as we read today's readings there is something that seems somewhat peculiar.

Luke's Gospel presents Jesus speaking of the end of salvation history. He speaks of the *parousia* or "presence" or "arrival". That is, Jesus' coming glorified. The passage expresses this in dramatic fashion hoping to get the attention of those who read it. It is not actually meant to instill trepidation. The scriptures exhort us to have faith in a final act of God that truly culminates human history. This might be the end of time on Earth but not the end of existence. Another way scriptures are at work here is expressing the "end" as *eschaton*.

More than meaning end as in no more time, *eschaton* refers to a new age. It speaks to the transformation of our world. With the coming of Jesus already, which we celebrate at Christmas, we actually are in the new age that has already begun. We are in the final age. This is Jesus's kingly reign. It is a present reality. Jesus reigns NOW through the presence of the Holy Spirit! This age is not something we are still waiting for.

Today's readings do exhort us to be alert for the moment when all salvation does come to a head, fulfillment. It will be a moment that will last for eternity when all understand Love, God's Love and live in and by Love. All that God made known through the centuries will "make sense" to everyone. Those who still are "asleep" morally who wanted to live not loving but gaining earthly wealth and power alone will find the moment shocking. Perhaps they will say in realization, "those followers of Jesus were right all along." In His compassion God will, perhaps, give them one more chance to say yes to Him. But, why wait until then?

This year's gospel, the Gospel of Luke, is all about showing us the way to acceptance. Luke connects the many past moments of salvation history with moments in his own time. Then he makes clear these moments or

patterns God has demonstrated call us to carry on the cause of salvation history to the final moment. If we do, we will not be surprised at the time of culmination, the moment the fruit of love is ripe.

We will recognize the patterns God has made since Old Testament times to now. Throughout time God has shown one most powerful pattern of His. God makes promises and He **KEEPS** them! Will we recognize the patterns?

This will be our task this year. Together as Church we are to recognize the pattern of God as Luke guides us to see them. We will learn from them. Amazingly we will develop our internal disposition toward salvation, living in God's Love, to the point our desire for it spills over from our souls. Let our love manifest itself in works of Justice that make others also see the great love of God. May no one be surprised at the realization of the presence of the New Age that has already begun.

Today we begin with the end.

Advent!

Regulars here recall this is the New Year of the Church. It is not Christmas Season regardless of the advertisements.

It is a period of preparation to celebrate the first coming of Jesus the King and of preparation for His second coming.

Thus, we practicing Christians may prepare decorations and gifts. HOWEVER, we DO NOT decorate the house as though it is already Christmas. We decorate in the spirit of this season of anticipation. Prepare an Advent Wreath and use light purple colors around the house. Pay particular attention to the scripture readings being use in the Sunday Liturgies.

Thank you for properly observing the TRUE faith Tradition of Christianity.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Bar5:1-9; Phil1:4-6,8-11; Lk3:1-6

STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talent, Tithing

Attendance last week:

Tithes Collected:

Next weeks' bulletin

Online Giving:

Total:

Holy Day Schedule

December 24, Friday (Christmas Eve): 4:00pm and 11:00pm

December 25, Saturday (Christmas Day): 10:45am
There will be NO 4:00pm Vigil Saturday the 25th

December 26, Sunday Liturgies (Holy Family):
9:00am and 10:45am.

December 31, Friday (New Year's Eve): 4:00pm
January 1, Saturday (New Year's Day): 10:45am
There will be NO 4:00pm Vigil Saturday the 1st.

January 2, Sunday (Epiphany): 9:00am and 10:45am



Archdiocese of Miami Development Corporation

1. Give Catholic for Giving Tuesday is two days away! Visit www.givecatholicgt.org today!
2. What do bequests, life insurance gifts, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and lifetime giving have in common? They are ways you can pass on your Catholic Heritage, Faith, and Love for your Parish. Contact the Office of Planned Giving for more information. (305) 762-1112
3. "But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (Luke 21:28)

If the Lord Jesus returned today, could we, as Christian stewards, render an account of how we used His gifts in this life to further His kingdom?

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 27

4:00 p.m. † David Morganstern by Mary Miller
† Jean Ingraham by Marie, Linda, & Peggy

Sunday, November 28

9:00 a.m. † Pauline Crepage by Bill & Chris
10:45 a.m. † Jaime Portelo by Mazzurco Family
Greg & Diane Marciszewski by Sally

Monday, November 29

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, November 30

8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 a.m. † Adeline Zubkousky by Shirley

Thursday, December 2

8:00 a.m. Fr. Don Tanel by Daniel Murphy

Friday, December 3

8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz

Saturday, December 4

4:00 p.m. † Joseph & David Morganstern by Mary Miller
Dave Zury by Joanie

Sunday, December 5

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Angela Bergida by Richard Legreide & Ralph Caraglia
Evelyn Blaha by Joanie