

Thank you...Thank you...to all who have already pledged toward our 'Growing, Living, Building Together Campaign.' Thank you also to the many who volunteered their time to visit with our parish family members inviting them to join in the excitement and financial commitment to reach our goal. This time of year can be filled with many time challenging responsibilities...so this gift of your support and time is so very important and treasured.

This campaign is focused on a few short weeks...so it will not drag-out forever. But we hope to visit many families and households to give everyone the opportunity of helping and supporting this great and exciting campaign. We need everyone to jump in and help support this effort. It is the biggest since the building of the present Church over fifty years ago. We have benefitted from those who have gone before us...enjoyed the facilities that they sacrificed to build...with minimum financial sacrifice on our part. But...now it is our turn! And many generations will benefit from our sacrifice and commitment! Thank you...Thank you!

The First Sunday of Advent is the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. It always starts with a reflection on the Second Coming of Christ. We all know that we are preparing for the great joyful Feast of the Nativity of the Lord...the first coming of Christ...born of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem. That was the inauguration of God's Kingdom on Earth...and we await the fulfillment of His reign at the end of time...the Parousia.

So we reflect on the preparation and the invitation God extended to those early generations preparing for that first Advent of Christ...God's anointed. But the main focus at the beginning of Advent is the Second Coming of the Lord...and our vigilant preparation for that coming. Our lives are to show forth in acts of justice and love...the watchfulness we exemplify. The Lord will come again and we await him with eager longing...to bring the fullness of justice and peace to reign over all nations.

The Second Sunday of Advent announces the coming of the Lord at the beginning of his active ministry...with the voice of John the Baptist. He calls people to repentance...a change of heart and life...to be ready to welcome the Lord and to listen to his teaching. John calls out... 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' and the Gospel tells us that it is of him that the Prophet Isaiah spoke when he said... 'Prepare the way of the Lord make straight His paths.'

As the people of John's day needed to hear the warning and invitation to prepare...so do we and the people of our day. We can become complacent and just absorbed in ordinary life activities. But the Lord calls us to be open and ready for that deeper encounter with him...his love, life, and mercy. Sin keeps us from seeing and hearing clearly the call of the Lord...so John's voice rings out loud and clear... 'Repent!'...and 'Prepare the way of the Lord...'

Are we ready to hear that call...that sincere invitation? Are we ready to make the changes necessary to welcome the Lord more deeply into our lives? John called for a clear admission and true spirit of repentance...are we there yet...and when will we be ready?

Holy Day coming...Immaculate Conception... Wednesday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 6:30 pm...and on Thursday, December 8...Mass at 8:15 am...and Mass in the evening at 6:30 pm. This is our National Feast Day to which our country is dedicated...the Feast of our Diocese...and of our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Children's Christmas Program...will be Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 pm...in the gym... everyone welcome!

Lessons & Carols...presented by the Glory Choir...Sunday, December 11 at 7 pm... beautiful music...quiet prayer...refreshments! Come spend a little quiet time at church preparing the way!