

Prepare the Way for the Lord!

“When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #524).

The five seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Easter, Lent, and Ordinary time) avail us grace opportunity through their liturgy, spirituality, and theology. The season of Advent is a grace-filled season in which we prepare to celebrate the greatest event in human history; the incarnation- the birth of Christ- Christmas. The readings of this season will always invite us to prepare for this great feast.

In this season of Advent, we read about two prophets: Prophet Isaiah who prophesied about the coming of Christ and his mission as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5-6) and Prophet John the Baptist, the precursor and the forerunner of Christ, who announced and called for immediate preparation for Christ’s coming through heartfelt repentance, which is meant to bear fruits in our lives. At the foundation of the preparation for Christ’s coming is what St. Peter invites us to do in the second reading to “be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.”

To be found without spot or blemish before God is to find peace with our God, ourselves, and others. As we look at the light of Advent candles and the lights of Christmas trees, let them remind us that God wants the light of his presence to shine in our hearts. It is only when we have this unique gift that we can share that with others by welcoming and accepting them in-spite-of themselves, just as God accepts and welcomes us always in-spite-of ourselves. Let the light of Christ continue to enlighten the darkness of our lives. Amen.

“For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 4:6).