

Prepare the Way for the Lord!

The five seasons of the Liturgical Year (Advent, Christmas, Easter, Lent, and Ordinary time) avail us of grace opportunities through their liturgy, spirituality, and theology. Advent season is a grace-filled season in which we prepare to celebrate the most remarkable event in human history; the incarnation- the birth of Christ- Christmas. Something very unique about Advent is the Advent candle and wreath. Every week of the season, we shall be lightening a candle as we started last week to remind us that Christ is our light and He wants to enlighten our life.

Today's readings describe how God used different people at different times to bring His light of hope and encouragement to His people. In the first reading, the book of the Prophet Baruch- the scribe to the Prophet Jeremiah, God through him brought words of hope, encouragement, comfort, and promises of restoration to His people while they were in exile. Similarly, the prayers of St. Paul in the 2nd reading reflect words of encouragement and hope. He prays that God who began good work in us will bring it to completion in Christ. Equally, John the Baptist in the Gospel of Luke today reminds us that our hope in the coming of the Savior has to show itself in how we prepare the way for the Lord.

As we journey in this season of Advent, each of us should embrace the light of hope God gives us by preparing the way for Him. This invitation entails allowing the love of God in us to increase as St. Paul prayed in the 2nd reading. The love of Christ in us will enlighten the darkness of selfishness and self-centeredness that sometimes influence our words and actions. Let us ask God that the light of hope of this Advent will continue to enlighten us and take control of the darkness that beclouds the hope that He gives us in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. 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).