

## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT CYCLE B 2020

### WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE

As we begin the B cycle of church's calendar year I couldn't get a better theme than this. To get a proper perspective on where we are, we need to reflect on the ***past and the present*** which will help us to get the necessary energy to go forward.

***Advent*** which means expectation or waiting has a two-fold aspect:

***-Time for preparing for Christmas.***

***-Time to prepare for the second coming of Christ.***

We should not forget the fact that there are different moments when Christ comes to us; especially:

***-Each time the scripture is read, He speaks to us.***

***-Each time mass is celebrated, the Lord is present with his redeeming and cleansing love of us and the church.***

***-Each time we receive communion, the actual Body of Christ.***

***-Each time we gather together, (where two or three have gathered in my name, I am in their midst.***

***Each time we do works of mercy He is present, (whatever you did to the least of my brethren you did it to me).***

During Advent, we are reminded to prepare for coming of Jesus in all these moments. How are we going to prepare this Advent?

The season of Advent directs our thoughts and actions to those moments. The church cycle helps us to rejuvenate, bringing us to that new life of being who we are. Created in the ***image*** of God and ***likeness*** of Christ in Baptism. It brings us to that new Flavor into our relationship and connection with God. It creates that anxiety, thus giving us energy for our two-fold purpose.

The Gospel is calling us then to be ***vigilant and alert*** for He may come at any time. We need to be ***active, watchful, and faithful*** Disciples of Christ. We are called to be witnesses of Christ in this challenging, violent world and society.

***-Bearing witness to peace in the midst of conflicts.***

***-Bearing witness of love in the midst of indifference.***

***-Witnessing life in the midst of death.***

We need then to be peacemakers and to be loving towards others. The most effective way to witness Christ especially in this time is to be available to the needs of others, especially this difficult and challenging moment in our lives, in this pandemic period. We must ask the Lord to help us remain steadfast, faithful, and sensitive to the needs of others. We need him to sustain our ***faith, love, courage, and determination*** through ***prayer and works of mercy***. He is calling us three times in the gospel to ***STAY AWAKE***. Hence, we need to create a habit of being near him always. We are called to let God continue to be the potter and us the clay. May he continue to recreate us in His image.

DO NOT LET HIM APPROACH YOU AND CATCH YOU ASLEEP.

Advent calls us to ***WATCH FOR THE MOVEMENT OF GOD IN OUR LIFE.***

***COME LORD JESUS.***