

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 1st.SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR -B.2023.

BE ON ALERT:

Today we begin the first Sunday of Advent, it is also the first Sunday of the liturgical year of the church year B.

Advent means **expectation or waiting**. There are two fold expectations during this period of Advent, **time to prepare for Christmas** thus recalling the **birth of our Lord Jesus Christ**, also preparing for the **second coming of our Lord at the end of time**. Advent has two folds of expectation and period one running from first Sunday of Advent till the 16th the readings this period focuses on the eschatological coming where else the other period from 17th to 24th focuses on the Nativity of Christ in Bethelhem.

However we must note the fact that Christ enters into our life's in different moments which we must not overlook at all.

-Each time the scripture is read He is with us and speaks to us through the word.

-Each time mass is celebrated, the Lord is present in his redeeming and cleansing love.

-Each time we gather in prayer he is in our midst.

-Each time we do works of mercy he is present (whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers you did it unto me).

During Advent and in all the above moment we are called to prepare for presence and the coming of our Lord. The issue is how are you preparing for his coming and entry into your life.

Don't we not feel like the prophet Isaiah in our first reading! who feels that the Lord has forsake us, he is in desperate anguish, having exhausted all human possibilities, he cried out to God on behalf of the people pleading with God to continue on **recreating them as he is the potter and people are the clay**. don't we all need to be **reshaped again on daily basis (Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:2-7)**. This is all what we need to do during Advent in welcoming Jesus with his **renewal grace to us, our prayer should be come Lord Jesus**.

St. Paul in his letter to Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:3-9) tells us to reach out now for the gifts of grace are available through Christ

The season of Advent **direct our thoughts and actions to these moments of grace**, it helps us to **rejuvenate bringing us to the new life of being recreated in the image of God and likeness of Christ.**

It brings us to **greater realization of the relationship and connection we have with God as a potter.**

It too gives us that **anxiety, creating energy** for the two **expectations.**

The gospel Mark. 13:33-37) is calling us not once, not twice but three times **to be vigilant, alert and watch for he may come at any time**, we must be then **active, watchful and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ** in all our undertakings.

We are called to **bear witness to peace amid conflicts, witness to love amid indifference and above all witnessing life in the midst of death,**

The call is to be **peacemakers and loving towards others** this is what we call witnessing. we must ask the Lord we remain **steadfast, faithful and sensitive to the needs of others.** we need to call upon him through his grace that we may be sustained in **faith, love courage and determination through prayer and works of mercy** which is urgently need in the society hence **we must stay awake.**

**We must let God continue on being a potter to recreate us, Advent then calls us to WATCH FOR THE MOVEMENT OF GOD IN OUR LIVES
COME LORD JESUS.**