

Second Sunday of Advent

Winter has a different meaning for us at different stages of our life. As children, it is a wonderland of possibilities. Snowstorms bring the possibility of a day off from school, or a day of sleigh riding or playing. For some, it is a day of ice skating on a frozen pond. And of course, we cannot forget the Christmas season; the anticipation and excitement that surrounds children of all ages.

As we get older, winter can be more difficult. Whether it is the short days or early darkness, the cold temperatures, or the difficult driving conditions; winter takes on a different significance. For some, it is a matter of waiting for spring, the warmer temperatures and new life found outdoors.

Perhaps we can see a similarity in our waiting. As Christians, we have our eyes and hearts fixed on the coming of Christ. Advent is a time of waiting and watching. We no longer wait for the birth of Christ; this has already occurred. Rather, we wait in anticipation for the second coming of Christ.

We know Jesus will come again in glory as a just judge. The question becomes how will He find us when he comes. It is our hope that he finds us worthy. Will He find us watching in prayer? Will He find us continuing the good works He encouraged us to do, while He was here on earth?

Father William C. Graham, author of *100 Days Closer to Christ*, suggests we ask the God of power and mercy to remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory.

This Advent season is an opportunity for us to attend to our spiritual needs. Consider making a spiritual checklist. After all, we make checklists for all sorts of other things. Our parish offers all kinds of activities throughout the Advent season. Take time to recharge your spiritual batteries, and redirect your lives to the reason for the season, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you.
Deacon Rich



Second Collection - December 8th and 9th - Religious Retirement Fund

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little or no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. As always, thank you for your generosity.