St Mary's Catholic Church
Greenville, South Carolina

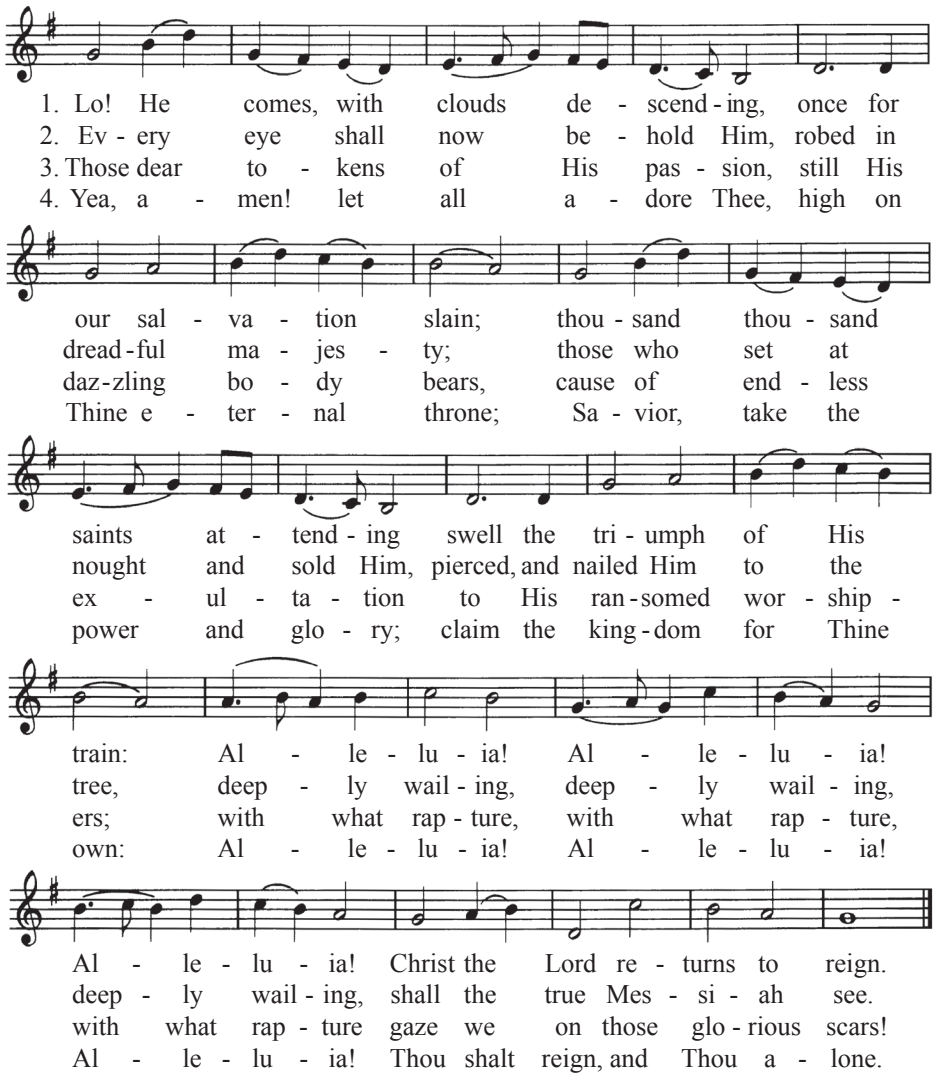


First Sunday of Advent
29 November 2026

Entrance Antiphon — Psalm 25.1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Entrance Hymn — Lo, He Comes



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: *Helmsley,* melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778) — 87. 87 12 7

Penitential Act

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

People **Amen.**

Or the priest may use the alternate form of the Penitential Rite with three invocations, after which all sing:

Kyrie

Missa Aeterna Christi Munera, Palestrina (Choir only)



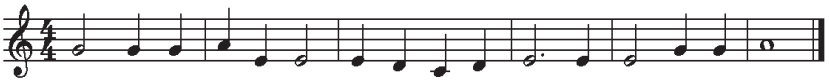
First Reading — Isaiah 63.16b-17, 19b; 64.2-7

You, Lord, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**



Responsorial Psalm — Psalm 80.2-3, 15-16, 18-19



O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted,
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

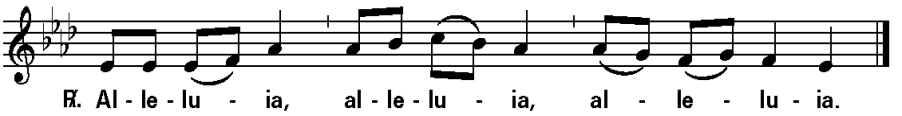
Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Show us, Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation. *Response.*

Deacon: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Mark 13.33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily



Profession of Faith *(spoken slowly and reverently)*

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

Bow profoundly during these two lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Bidding Prayers

The Collection

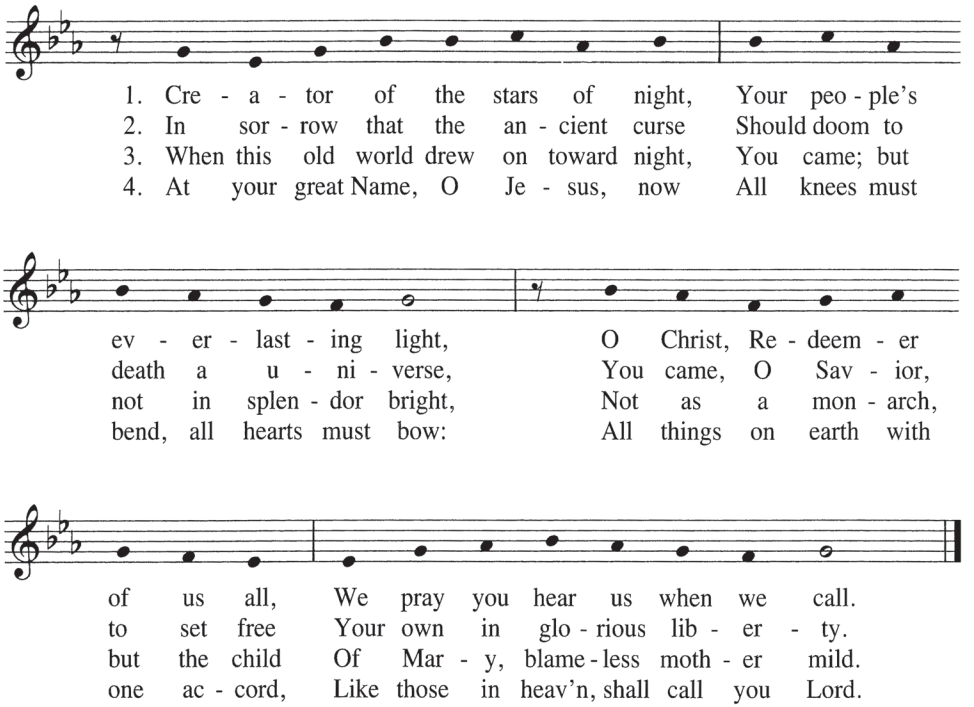
The offering is for the support of the parish.

Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church.

Offertory Antiphon — Psalm 25.1-3

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Offertory Hymn — Creator of the Stars of Night



5. Come in your holy might, we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe.

6. To God Creator, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

Text: *Conditor alme siderum,* Latin 9th C.; Tr. *The Hymnal 1982,* © 1985, The Church Pension Fund
Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, LM; Mode IV; Acc. by Gerard Farrell, OSB, b.1919, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

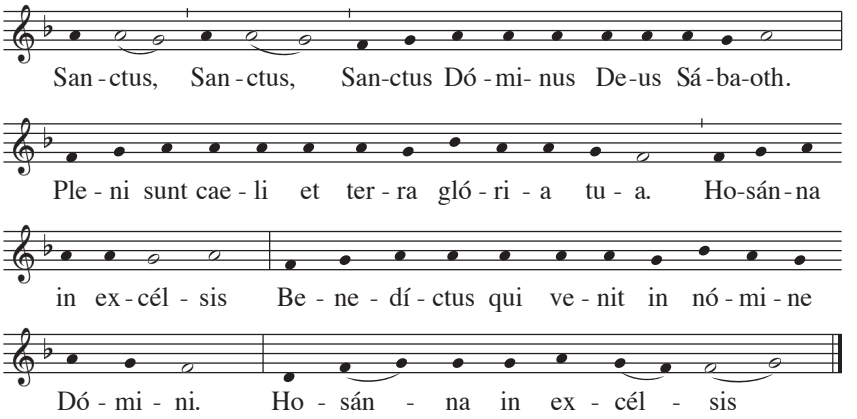
Offertory Anthem

Redeemer of the Nations, Come — *Robert Lee*

Redeemer of the nations, come; reveal yourself in virgin birth; the birth which ages all adore, a wondrous birth, befitting God. From human will you do not spring, but from the spirit of our God; O Word of God, come; take our flesh and grow as child in Mary's womb. With God the Father you are one, and one with us in human flesh. Oh fill our weak and dying frame with godly strength which never fails. Your cradle shines with glory's light; Its splendor pierces all our gloom, our faith reflects those radiant beams; no night shall overcome it now. All praise, O unbegotten God, all praise to you, eternal Word, all praise, life-giving Spirit, praise, all glory to our God triune. Amen.



Sanctus



Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

Communion Rite

Priest At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

People **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

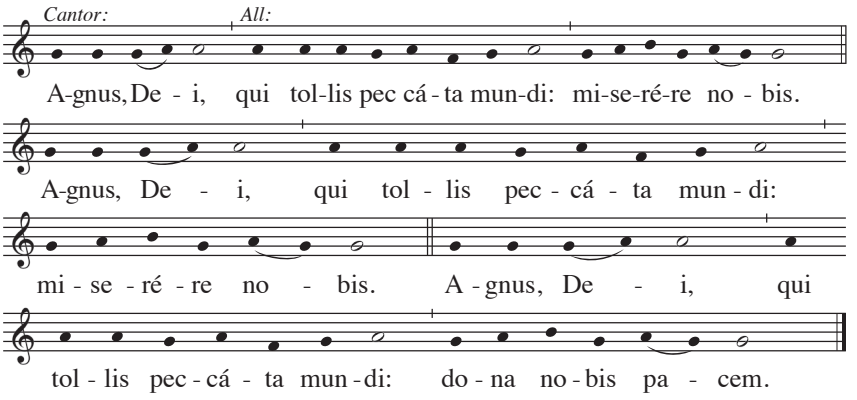
Priest Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **And with your spirit.**

Agnus Dei



Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Priest Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People **Lord, I am not worthy**
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon — Psalm 85.13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



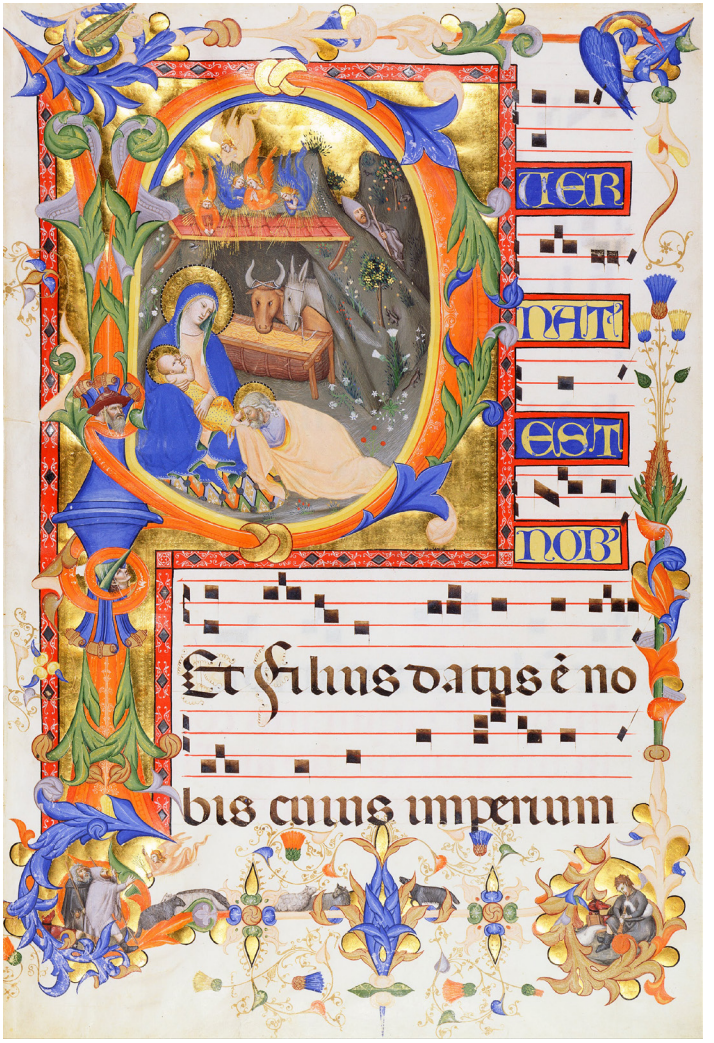
An Act of Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, I love you above all things.
How I long to receive you with my brothers
and sisters at the table you have prepared.
But since I cannot at this moment receive you in
the holy sacrament of your Body and Blood,
I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit
and nourish me with your holy presence.
I unite myself completely to you;
never permit me to be separated from your love.
Amen.

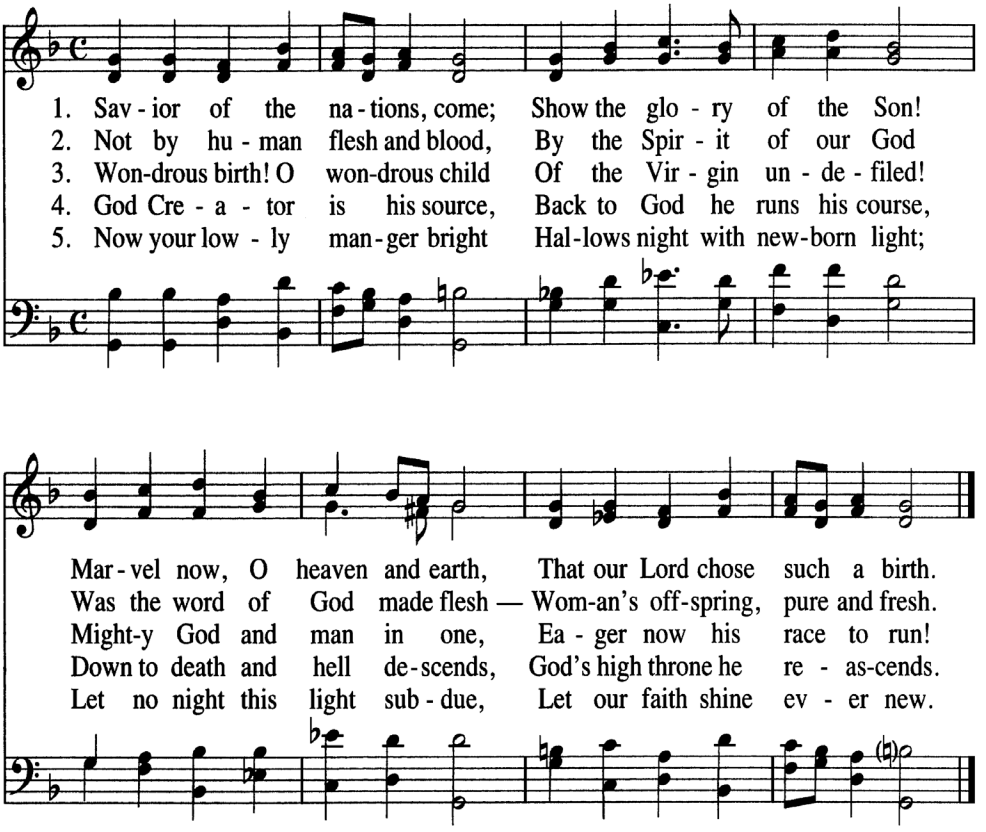
Communion Motet

Zion hört die Wächter singen — *JS Bach*

Zion hears the watchmen singing, her heart, with joyful hope is springing, she wakes and hurries through the night. Forth He comes, her Bridegroom glorious, in strength of grace, in truth victorious, her star is risen, her light grows bright. Now come, most worthy Lord God's Son, incarnate Word! Halleluja! We all follow and heed Your call to come into the banquet hall.



Communion Hymn — Savior of the Nations, Come



Text: *Veni, Redemptor gentium;* Ascr. to St. Ambrose, 340-397; Tr. sts. 1-3a, William Reynolds, 1812-1876; Sts. 3b-5, Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967, alt.
Tune: NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND, 77 77; *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn,* Wittenberg, 1524; Harm. by Melchior Vulpius, c.1560-1615



Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And with your spirit.**

Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
People **Amen.**

Deacon Go in peace.
People **Thanks be to God.**

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but until recently has been rare in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgvl.org, and look for the link entitled *Facing East to Pray*.

Please join us
today at 5.00 pm
for
Solemn Vespers
of the
First Sunday of Advent

Page one: Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville, SC.

Page four: The Siegburg Lectionary. (12th century).

Page six: Giotto. Detail of *The Last Judgement*, Arena Chapel, Padua, Italy. (1305).

Page nine: James Tissot. *Journey of the Magi.* (19th century).

Page twelve: Giotto. Detail of *The Nativity*. Arena Chapel, Padua, Italy. (1304).

Page thirteen: Don Silvestro dei Gherarducci. Gradual. (c. 1392).

From the Office of Readings
for the First Sunday of Advent

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring a crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, what relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: *You did these things, and I was silent.*

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple:* that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.*

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: *The grace of God the Savior was appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.* Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: *He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

- From a catechetical instruction by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop
(b. 376; d. 444)

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was December, and another Christmas was at our throats. That was the dim view of all things Yule taken by the English humorist P.G. Wodehouse, and it is a sentiment most of us can readily understand. To avoid the frenzy which induces that feeling, we need to grasp what the Grinch perceived with wonder from the summit of Mount Crumpit: That Christmas "came without ribbons; it came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags." And the very best way to arrive at this insight is to keep a holy Advent.

The twin peaks of the liturgical year are Easter and Christmas, and both of these celebrations are preceded by a period of preparation. The purple of penance must come before the gold of glory revealed in Christ's Birth and Resurrection, and this is where the cultural and secular observance of Christmas can get in the way of a good Advent. On the radio and at the mall, Christmas has already been at our throats for some time, but today is just the first Sunday of Advent. And on December 26th when the Church is only beginning to celebrate the liturgical season of Christmas, evergreen trees will begin to pile up on the curb and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer will disappear until next Halloween. Let's just say STOP!

We now have four weeks in which to ponder the profound mystery of Christ coming to us for our salvation. In the past he did come to suffer and die for us. In the present he does come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. And in the future he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead. All three of these "advents" are part of this beautiful season of the liturgy, and if we attend to the Church's rhythm of prayer, penance and preparation, then when Christmas Eve arrives, we will not be exhausted; we will be elated.

So, how to do this? 1) Get an Advent wreath and light it at home each night while praying the Collect from Mass that day. 2) Pray the Liturgy of the Hours, particularly each Sunday afternoon at 5 pm here in the church. 3) Come to Mass on weekdays as often as possible during Advent. Weekday Mass has a quiet, meditative quality that steals into our hearts and minds, and Advent is deeply enriched by Mass each day. 4) Encourage your family and friends to think of things other than packages, boxes or bags. Make a donation in someone's name to Catholic Charities or Catholic Relief Services. Write a letter to someone you love to tell them so. Volunteer to serve someone in need. 5) Go to Confession so that your Christmas Communion will truly be holy.

December is at hand, but another Christmas need not be at our throats. It can be in our hearts with joy beyond all telling if we prepare to celebrate the Birth of the Messiah with a worthy Advent.

Father Newman