



December 2, 2018

REFLECTION FROM FR. PETER

(Luke 21-25-28, 34-36)

BELIEVE THE PROMISE! The First Week of Advent marks a new liturgical year. Today's readings remind us of the promise that God made with His people — Jeremiah's words announcing a future wherein God's promise of restoration will be fulfilled. A shoot—a sign of new life springing from previous life—will be raised up for the Davidic house.

There's something compelling about a promise. When you *promise something* to someone, you're giving part of yourself. When someone you trust promises that they will come through for you, you don't feel alone. Your friend is promising you their presence. The Bible is filled with God's promises to us.

What does God promise? Not wealth or success or a life free from suffering. He promises us a *person*. God is promising us *his personal presence* that we can see and touch. And in the gospel, we see the fulfillment of God's promise in a person, Jesus Christ. Jesus is "God among us". God has come through for us. God is with us.

Sometimes our hearts can get drowsy. Jesus warns us about this in the gospel today. When our hearts grow drowsy we lose sight of the promise. That's why the Church gives us Advent. Advent is a gentle wake-up call, a 4 week period to prepare our hearts for Christmas. It's a time to believe in God's promise to give us true purpose and joy in Jesus Christ.

Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang

COOKIES, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE? — Catholic Community Services is having their annual Christmas Social on Friday, **Dec. 21st**, 9am—1pm, at both CCS locations. If you can help distribute beverages, cookies, and gifts, email, or call, Nicole at: nhughes@cclsc.org (541-345-3628, ext. 317).

REFLEXIÓN DEL PADRE PEDRO

CREER LA PROMESA! La primera semana de Adviento marca un nuevo año litúrgico. Las lecturas de hoy nos recuerdan la promesa de Dios con su pueblo – las palabras de Jeremías anunciaban la promesa de Dios la restauración sería cumplida. Una señal de una nueva vida brotando de la vida pasada – será resucitada por la casa de David.

Hay algo llamativo sobre la promesa. Cuando tu *prometes algo* a alguien, estas dando parte de ti mismo. Cuando alguien en quien tú confías, te promete algo, tú no te sientes solo. Tu amigo te ofrece su presencia. La Biblia está llena de promesas de Dios para nosotros.

¿Qué es lo que Dios promete? No riqueza o éxito o una vida libre de sufrimiento. Él nos promete una persona. Dios nos promete su *presencia personal* que puede tocar y ver. Y en el Evangelio, vemos el cumplimiento de la promesa de Dios en una persona, Jesucristo es "Dios entre nosotros". Dios ha venido por nosotros. Dios está con nosotros.

Algunas veces nuestro corazón puede marearse. Jesus nos advierte sobre esto en el evangelio de hoy. Cuando nuestro corazón se turba nosotros perdemos la visión de la promesa. Eso es porque la Iglesia nos da el Adviento. Adviento es una llamada gentil a despertar, un periodo de 4 semanas para preparar nuestro corazón para la Navidad. Es tiempo de creer en la promesa de Dios para darnos verdadero propósito y alegría en Jesucristo.

Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang



ANNUAL SVDP TURKEY/FOOD DRIVE November 1—December 9

Yes — turkeys and geese and chickens and hams! (Please, no lions or tigers!)

Donations can be brought to Mass on the weekends (freezer is in the Parish Ctr.) or to the office during the drive.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped into the SVDP bin in the Vestibule.

Thank you for your care of our neighbors who need a little bit of help providing Christmas dinner for their families!

BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH AT HOME

The use of the **ADVENT WREATH** is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then one of the following Scripture passages is read: **Isaiah 9:1-2,5-6** or **Isaiah 63:16-17,19** or **Isaiah 64:2-7**

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.



—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



MARIA ALANGARAM was 77 years old when she passed away suddenly on Wednesday, November 21st. She is survived by 6 sons and one daughter, and 10 grandchildren. Fr. Michael is the third child. Her Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, November 24th, at St. James Catholic Church in Vadasery, South India.

The whole parish, as well as the Bishop, attended her funeral ... all were surprised to see so many people in attendance, irrespective of what faith they were. Fr. Michael's mother was very involved with the parish, and also with community groups, and therefore touched many lives. He claims, "She was one great soul who lived with courage and faith".

Fr. Michael asks that he and his family be kept in your prayers (they send their gratitude), as well as prayers for his mother's soul.

