

December 2-3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:2-7

First Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

Fresh from the toil of Thanksgiving preparations, **ADVENT** occurs with an urgent reminder to WATCH and be alert for the emerging presence of God within our daily lives. Leading to our annual commemoration of the Incarnation, the enfleshment of the eternal word in the person of Jesus, **ADVENT** is about reawakening ourselves to seek Jesus in our day-to-day experiences. Not to be found solely within Mass or in overtly prayerful situations, Jesus' very name, EMMANUEL, speaks of his continual presence in each and every moment of our days. Not for us to figure out how Jesus does this, rather, this great gift of PRESENCE and GRACE is ours through Baptism and is made available to each of us, whether we seek it or not. This abiding presence of Jesus is available for those who look with more than their eyes and touch with more than their hands. The INCARNATION is not something we await...but something available for us NOW as we live our lives, availing of the graces uniquely fashioned for our specific needs. The temptations to become preoccupied with personal activities, pleasures and pursuits is great; being attentive to seeking Jesus in all things can become mundane and feeble, resulting in longer and longer periods of distraction and going it alone without the strength of specific GRACES being offered us. In these early hours of the fresh Liturgical Year, let us look with inner eyes, seek without ceasing, trust that the promise will be honored...and allow the INCARNATION to find a dwelling place within our lives. Christmas does not just occur on December 25th....the INCARNATION awaits us each hour of every day.

Thank you for setting aside Christmas shopping at the malls or other assorted activities so as to come pray and worship with our Santa Clara community! Being the **FIRST SUNDAY of Advent**, you are especially welcome to 'The Grace of YES' Family Faith Formation event starting at the noon Mass and continuing immediately after with lunch, presentations and activities for adults and children. Please note that our Heart and Soul Ministry is overseeing the annual ADOPT-A-Family in conjunction with our Sister Parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Santa Ana. If you wish to participate, please visit their Adoption Tables immediately after Mass. **Our Parish Advent RECONCILIATION Service is this Tuesday, December 5th at 7pm. On Thursday, December 7th we have a 5pm Vigil Mass for the Holy Day of Opportunity-The Immaculate Conception, followed by Friday, December 8th Masses at 8:30am and 9:30am.** Make sure you mark **Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30pm** as our '**Advent Night of Story & Song**'....a Christmas Carol and Story opportunity, perfect as a way to quiet ourselves in preparation for Christmas; with plenty of hot cocoa, wassail and Christmas cookies, the evening is a free gift by which to enjoy the season. Please take a Bulletin home with you for other news and please remember, it might be a new Liturgical Year but you are still loved. FKB