

**December 1-2, 2018**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**First Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

**Luke 21:25-36**

Is there a parent or grandparent among us who does NOT wish for strength, happiness, peace and long life for their children and grandchildren? Is there an educator within any of our schools who does NOT wish that his or her students will set the world on fire with their brilliance and fresh ideas? Is there ANYONE who, having read the newspapers, watched the television/cable news, listened to sound bites from assorted media, does NOT wish for an END to the bickering, small-mindedness, pettiness and political game-playing that dims our national pride and does not address the serious issues confronting our country? Having learned to live with loss and disappointments, nonetheless, we are a people of RESILIENT HOPE. Despite setbacks, sadness and insanities, there is NO ONE who wishes their children to fail, NO ONE who wishes our country to be anything less than GREAT, NO ONE who does not HOPE that the next BIG cure, the next BIG discovery, the next BIG voice will rise up within our lifetimes. On this FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT we hear from the Prophet Jeremiah that the Lord will FULFILL HIS PROMISES. 2018 having substantially shaken our inner-peace in so many ways, we may have to VERY PURPOSEFULLY reset our inner compass' so as to RISE above our disappointments and sadness' so as to be PEOPLE OF HOPE....PEOPLE of BRIGHT FUTURES...PEOPLE of ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES. Even though our senses see blight, madness, loss, destruction and brokenness, with God, all things are possible, for NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

THANK YOU for again choosing to join with our Santa Clara community as we welcome a NEW LITURGICAL YEAR of possibilities and HOPE. With our recent Thanksgiving feasts now fully digested we open ourselves to the **ADVENT opportunities** approaching; **#1: Our ADVENT Reconciliation Service THIS Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** **#2: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Masses on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm and Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am;** **#3: Our ADVENT NIGHT of STORY & SONG on Thursday, December 13 at 7pm and #4: the Rectory Open House (5475 Bayberry Way) on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm – 5:00pm.** **THANK YOU for your help in decorating our Church for Christmas by using the CHRISTMAS FLOWER envelopes available at the exits** and please note that the Second Collection opportunity to support our RETIRED RELIGIOUS (and our OWN retired Priests of the Diocese of Orange) will be next weekend. So many things, so much for which to HOPE...in it all, please remember, you are loved. FKB