

November 30-December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

At the equator, being 24,901 miles in circumference, the earth spins at 1,000 miles of an hour, thus our concept of a 24 hour day (ok...for the precise folk among us... it is 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09053 seconds)...of TIME, is actually predicated on SPEED and DISTANCE. Magnify it into a larger format and science measures interstellar distances in LIGHT YEARS, the distance light travels in a year...which, going 186,282 miles per second, comes out to about 5.88 TRILLION miles (except in Leap Years when it is a bit more.) I mention this because, in our sense of time, the earth has sufficiently spun and rotated around the sun (another instance of speed and distance) so that it is TIME for us to inaugurate another NEW YEAR of opportunity in which to experience Jesus Christ. Our First Reading from Isaiah speaks of EXTREME HOPEFULNESS: people beating swords into plowshares, weapons into farming instruments, war being abolished...OMG, what a WONDERFUL foundation from which to go into this NEW YEAR of FAITH. The Gospel selection from Matthew cautions us that, in the passing of time throughout this NEW YEAR of FAITH, dramatic instances will occur for which we ought to be prepared...as one priest within the Diocese of Orange said LAST YEAR, we don't want to wonder 'where is my Jesus' when crisis, confusion, tragedy, strikes. Remembering that God exists both within and outside of time...that time is created for us, so that we may live our lives within it, we are now given another opportunity to experience the living, existing, REAL presence of Jesus...the creator of time, who is about to reborn in OUR TIME...both in memory...and for REAL, once again. Thus, while the years seem to speed by, each one offers us an opportunity to slow down, to step out of the scientific realities in which we exist... and meet and grow a relationship with the creator of the very thing that defines and governs so much of our lives. Confused yet? Good...because Christmas is one of the ultimate confusing, wondrous and amazing celebrations by which we are invited us to grow beyond what we insist are our limits. You thought Jesus was just a nice guy who multiplied fish and loaves and healed people? Oh my, he is LIGHT YEARS more than that...and don't forget, we are created in his image and likeness. Uh huh....connect the dots.

Thank you for sharing this FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT with our Santa Clara Community. A NEW YEAR of hope and opportunity await us!! **Our Parish Reconciliation evening is this Thursday, December 5th, at 7pm.** We will have upwards of 9-10 priests available to make quick work of your sins so as to help you make a brilliant dwelling place within your soul in which Jesus may be born afresh. **Your participation in helping us DECORATE for the coming season of Christmas is invited and welcome....please use the Christmas Flower envelopes available at the entrances/exits...and our Art & Environment Team will handle all the dirty work for you.** Next weekend we will be accepting the ANNUAL collection to assist the Retired Religious here in the United States. A collection worthy of our support, this one tugs at our heart strings as we remember priests and nuns from our youth who now are in their senior years and needing extra assistance. Please come prepared to help. The Bulletin has more info, you may pick one up as you depart and please remember...even as you continue to consume and digest your Thanksgiving leftovers, you are loved. FKB