



# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

### TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

### SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration  
6:00 pm Mass

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am  
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL  
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#### Parochial Vicar

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#### Parish Secretary

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#### Liturgy Coordinator

Barb Ridge

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (NOVEMBER 19TH – 20TH)

Donation	\$3,385.00
Donation Online	\$1457.00
Maintenance Fund	\$40.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$4,882.00</b>

**2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL \$24,876**  
**GIFTS RECEIVED \$42,772.50 as of 11.01.22**



# First Sunday of Advent

## Homily by Father Joseph Vu

### Renewing Our Christian Citizenship

Another Advent is upon us.

Why? Why does the Church lead us along the same path every year, repeating the same seasons, even the same readings?

Is it for lack of creativity and imagination?

No, the Church is always young, and never runs out of creativity.

In every generation she gives the world new saints, new religious orders, new artists.

The Church is ever ancient, and yet ever new.

Is it out of condescension? Does the Church think we are too unintelligent to understand it the first time around?

No, the Church is a wise, loving mother who knows her children well, sincerely respects them, and is always leading them forward, never backward.

Is it out of malice? Does the Church want to bore us to death?

No, it is certainly not out of malice.

The Church may often be demanding, but when she is, it is for our benefit, not our destruction.

So, what is the reason for another Advent?

The word "advent" comes from the Latin "ad-venire", meaning to come to, to come towards.

This season spotlights the three comings of Christ:

the first, 2000 years ago;

the last, sometime in the future;

and the ongoing - Christ's constant coming into our lives through his grace, his providence, and his sacraments.

We live in the final age of human history, the age which will end in Christ's second coming, the destruction of the cosmos as we know it, and the creation of a new heavens and earth - the full establishment of Christ's Kingdom, as today's Readings described.

We are already citizens of that Kingdom because we are members of his Church.

The Church gives us the season of Advent in order to remind us of this, and to give us a chance to check up on the quality of our citizenship.

### Spiritualizing the Commercialization of Christmas

We all know that Christmas has become too commercialized in our society.

For many, Christmas has lost its religious meaning; for many, it consists only of presents, parties and punch.

For those of us who really believe in the true message of Christmas, which we think and pray about during Advent, this commercialization can cause frustration.

But it can also be an opportunity; we can use it to our advantage.

The commercialization focuses everyone's attention, more or less, on the presents and pleasures that will be enjoyed on Christmas Day.

In other words, it stimulates a natural kind of hope.

We can use this atmosphere of natural hope ("season's greetings") to stir up and nourish our supernatural, Christian hope ("Merry Christmas!"), which is a key ingredient for citizenship in Christ's Kingdom.

As Christians, we should be looking forward to Christ's second coming as eagerly as everyone else looks forward to Christmas Day.

Advent and Christmas, in fact, are like dress rehearsals for history and the end of history, for our lives on earth and our entrance into heaven after death.

The pattern of joyful anticipation and busy preparation that marks the commercial interpretation of Advent can serve us well, if we use it to bolster the joyful SPIRITUAL anticipation and the busy SPIRITUAL preparation of our hearts for a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ.

In a few moments, when the priest speaks the words of consecration, God will transform some very material and mundane bread and wine into Christ's own body and blood, in order to give us spiritual nourishment.

This Advent, counting on God's help, let's do the same thing with the material and mundane commercialization that's all around us: instead of complaining about it, let's transform it, let's infuse it with spiritual meaning.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament or nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents. We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, that we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at "doing" and neglect our need to "savor." Jesus reminds his friends that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away."

While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and



savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment and not just an investment in secular interests, pleasures, and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. It is for certain that he will come.

Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to

me when I die? These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for His presence and the gift of attentiveness.

*"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:43-44*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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