

~ Advent and Christmas ~

Reason for the Season!

Advent (from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming") is considered to be the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. The season is for most Christians one of anticipation and hope (if one looks beyond the commercialisation!), although at its beginnings the emphasis was much more on penitence, fasting and sin. For most Christians it is not just a celebration of a moment in time when a baby was born, but also looks beyond to a time when the Bible tells us that Jesus will come again, not as a weak and vulnerable baby but in power and with authority. The traditional Scripture readings emphasise both the First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and our accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin and the hope of eternal life.

Advent is also a spiritual journey that Christians take to a reaffirmation that he has come, is present in the world today and will come again in glory. It mirrors the journey of faith that Christians make after that moment of realisation and acceptance of who Jesus is, in that we take that first step of faith in commitment, continue hopefully to walk the road of faith and increasing understanding, and look forward to our destination, which is to be in his presence forever!

An Advent Examination

Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the way. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.

We prepare for everything we consider important in life, and that includes Christmas. We shop for gifts,

SIGN UP!

Visit: bestadventever.com

bake cookies, decorate our trees, and visit family and friends until we're ready to drop. Best Advent Ever is a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a different way.

Beginning the first Sunday of Advent (November 27) and continuing every day until December 26, you'll receive short inspirational videos, practical tips, or free Christmas music that will help you slow down during the busy Christmas season to focus on what's really important in life.

Don't miss the opportunity to make this your best Advent (and Christmas) ever. Sign up today! It's simple, and the only cost is your commitment to live better each day during Advent. Are you ready?



Advent Penitential Celebrations

Saint Vincent de Paul
SUNDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2016
2:00 PM

Followed by Individual Confessions

Saint Peter the Apostle
WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2016
7:00 PM

Followed by Individual Confessions

All Day Individual Confessions
Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption
FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2016
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM