

KeYsis Outline

December 2, 2009

- 6:15-6:30** Sign in/Mingle
- 6:35** Grace
- 7:00** P/W
- 7:30** Move to F/C
- 7:35** Announcements
- 7:40** Poem: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
 - You Tube video
- 7:50** Advent/Salvation/Mary
- 8:15** Small Groups

Advent

The Coming of the Lord While a month yet remains in the civil year, the Church is celebrating the beginning of a new Liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent on November 28, 2004. Advent — from the Latin *ad venio*, “to come” — is the liturgical season anticipating the “coming of the Lord.”

The Eternal Word, who is outside of time, became Incarnate in time, thereby making all time sacred. In the season of Advent, we await the coming of Christ on all the levels which we experience time: *in the past* — as a babe in the stable of Bethlehem; *in the present* — as grace in our souls; and *in the future* — as the Judge at the end of time.

Focus on the Liturgy There are always four Sundays in Advent. The liturgical color of the season is violet or purple, except on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Rejoice Sunday, when optional rose vestments may be worn.

Readings of Advent focus on the key figures of the Old Testament: the prophecies of Isaiah and New Testament who were prepared and chosen by God to make the Incarnation possible: the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, Sts. Elizabeth and Zechariah.

The Advent season also has a Marian focus. We meditate on this wonderful mystery of the Word Made Flesh with as much eagerness as his Mother, Mary prepared and awaited the birth of her son. In the USA we celebrate the special feasts of the **Immaculate Conception**, the patroness of the United States of America, on December 8, and Our **Lady of Guadalupe**, patroness of the Americas.

Other Saints traditionally recognized are St. Nicholas, patron saint of children, and St. Lucy, saint of light.

HE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY

1. Why did the Word become flesh?

- To save us by reconciling us with God
- So that we might know God's love
- Be our model of holiness
- Be partakers of our divine nature

2. The Incarnation (Jn 1:1-5, Jn 1:14) The Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation.

3. TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

- Early heresies proclaimed he was only human, or only divine; he was the Son of God by adoption and not nature
- "begotten, not made, when in being with the Father (same substance)

4. How is the Son of God Man?

- His knowledge was limited; it was exercised in the historical conditions of his existence in space and time (Luke 2:52)—had to learn from experience
- At the same time, had special knowledge of things which pertained to God—knowledge of His father, knowledge of the human heart (Jn 8:55)
- He knew in his human knowledge the fullness of understanding of the eternal plans he had come to reveal (Mk8:31)
- Christ possesses 2 wills: divine and human. Not opposed to each other, but cooperated together. The human will submits to His divine will.
- Christ's true body—Christ becoming man gave God a face. We know venerate Him in holy images, thus venerating the actual person

5. Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit: The Annunciation

- Lk 1:28-35
- Chose Mary from the beginning of time (**CCC 488**)

6. The Immaculate Conception—Mary was conceived without sin

- To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role
- Full of grace—grace is hindered by sin, she needed to be wholly borne by God's grace
- By the grace of God, Mary remained free of every personal stain of sin her whole life
- **Lk 1:38**—complete obedience without a single sin to restrain her

7. Ever-virgin

- Conceiving as a virgin affirmed the miracle of the incarnation
- Mary's virginity is the sign of her faith, the undivided gift of herself to God's will.
- She pledges herself to her Creator, her spousal relationship with the holy spirit

8. Mother of God—Theotokos (431)

9. The new Eve

Small Group Questions:

- 1. What does Advent mean to you?**
- 2. Think about the times you felt hopeless, sad, despair; (ask if anyone would like to share)**
- 3. Do you find hope, comfort, peace in Jesus? Explain?**