Advent Reflection

Each week of Advent, one of our pastoral staff will kindly share a reflection. Our Second Sunday of Advent reflection comes from our Associate Pastor, Rev. Jesús Raya Custodio

Advent can be characterized by an aspect of waiting. If we are waiting, it is because we are expecting someone or something—we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas and his coming at the end of times, but we prepare for it daily. In the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Advent, the liturgy presents with John the Baptist who came to prepare the way of the Lord. Thus, we are called to be ready for the coming of Christ. We are called to prepare our mind, our heart, and our soul. Who can help us prepare for the coming of Jesus but Our Blessed Mother Mary. There are two major celebrations of Our Lady during Advent, the Immaculate Conception, which we just celebrated on December 8th, and Our Lady of Guadalupe coming up on December 12th.

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in what today is Mexico City in December of 1531. Juan Diego was a native of the land and had been baptized. One morning, on his way to the church the Virgin Mary appeared and spoke to him in his native tongue. She asked him to deliver a message to the bishop; the Virgin requested the building of church so that praise be given to God. After several unsuccessful attempts, on December 12th, Our Lady instructed Juan Diego to pick roses from an arid hill and bring them to the bishop as a sign. Juan Diego picked up roses and placed them on his tilma or cloak; when he opened the cloak to drop the flowers before the bishop, Our Lady's image was imprinted on the tilma. After this miraculous event, a church was built and a whole nation converted to the faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Lady was an instrument of God when she accepted to be the mother of His son, and in Mexico, she was an instrument for the transmission of the faith to a people. Brothers and sisters, let us ask Our Mother that whatever we are facing personally or within our families or at work or in any other situation, she may intercede for us. If we are struggling with something in our lives that is obstructing us from preparing for the coming of Jesus, that she may help us be attentive to our spiritual needs. We can do that by praying one Hail Mary or three Hail Mary's or even a Rosary a day during Advent.

We are waiting for the coming of Christ, and it is easy to accept baby Jesus at Christmas, how can one not accept a baby born in a stable, so tender and defenseless. But it harder to carry out the teachings of the adult Jesus—love and forgiveness. Let us ask Our Lady to walk with us in those difficult situations of life or in that area where we struggle with something whether it is faith or nonfaith related. It is a way of preparing our mind, our heart, our soul for Jesus. We are called to be prepared daily, but the Church calls us to be intentional about it during the season of Advent.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Join us in celebrating Our Lady Of Guadalupe

Novenario–Rezo del Santo Rosario/ Novena-Holy Rosary

Domingo/Sunday 12/10	1:30 p.m.
Lunes/Monday 12/11	7:00 p.m.

Santa Misa en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe

Martes 12 de dicieimbre 7:00 p.m.

Convivio en Festival Hall despues de Misa

Holy Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Gathering in Festival Hall after Mass

