

December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent
Reflection from Fr. Thomas Burke

Be Watchful!

Today we begin a new season and a new calendar year in the Church as we begin Advent. The word Advent means a “coming” or “arrival.” It presents an opportunity of preparation and calls our attention to recall the birth of Jesus and also to anticipate his Second Coming. Advent makes us think of the theme of waiting as the Church invites us to prepare to celebrate both Jesus’ birth and his promise to return at the end of time.

The readings this weekend focus on being watchful and staying alert. In the first reading of the prophet Jeremiah, we read how Jeremiah gives good news for the people. The days are coming when they will enjoy true security. Jeremiah’s mission is to build up the Kingdom established by God for David. In the Second reading to the Thessalonians, Paul reminds the community of faith that through his teaching and example they should be equipped to please God in every way. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reminds his disciples to be alert, be watchful. Advent emphasizes constant vigilance rooted in prayer. Because no one knows the exact time when the Lord will come, we must be vigilant at all times. Advent is a time to be hopeful when we are asked by the church to awaken and be alert and watchful. Let us live the best as we can each day.

We prepare our hearts by seeking forgiveness. Let us get rid of the clutter of sin and worldly distractions. As we light the first candle in our Advent wreath this week, let us stay alert and be watchful. May this season concentrate our attention on how we treat each other, for we know that we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for the Lord.