



Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVING TUESDAY

November 29, 2016

#GivingTuesday is November 29th. You can be part of the celebration by giving back to the community. Visit givingtuesday.org to find out more, and don't forget about St. John!

To participate in #GIVING TUESDAY 2016, this worldwide day of giving, on behalf of St. John, visit our website and click on [OnlineGiving](#).

Remember, giving can also occur now as well as beyond Giving Tuesday.
Thank you in advance for your generosity!

BREAD TO OFFER



SOME THOUGHTS ON SUFFERING

By Fr. Barnabas Eichor, OFM, Cap.

Suffering is a stranger, usually unwelcome, who makes an appearance in the lives of each and every one of us.

Let us immediately say that suffering in itself is an evil, for it is a deprivation of some kind, if perhaps only a deprivation of a certain good of mind or spirit. The saints never considered suffering as desirable in itself, but only as the manifestation of God's will.

To love pain for the sake of pain is not only unchristian, it is unnatural. The saints looked at suffering as a way of being drawn closer to Christ Crucified. They realized with St. Paul that "to those who love God, all things work to the good." To them the Cross without Christ was meaningless.

With this in mind, let's consider the triple role of suffering in the Life of the Christian:

- 1) The first role of suffering is to save us from ourselves. We need this saving, because our tendency is to become so absorbed with the creatures of this world as to lose sufficient concern for the life to come. We become wrapped up in our little plans, our preoccupations, our pleasures, and get sidetracked on our way to eternity.
- 2) The second role of suffering is to destroy our selfishness. The problem of selfishness is usually so deeply rooted in us that the Lord must allow our own fallen natures to help root it out. The Lord works with that suffering to make us realize that we need him and cannot do things alone.

An honest scrutiny of our hearts quickly reveals how much in life revolves around ourselves. How frequently we cave into and cater to our desires for comfort and pleasure instead of searching out the will of God. We are often all too concerned with our vanity and pride and tempted to go it alone without the Lord. It is at these moments in our lives that the Lord will allow suffering to remind us that we are powerless without him, and life is not just about ourselves.

- 3) The third purpose of suffering is the key to all others. It is to increase our Christ-likeness. This indeed is the ultimate purpose of God's handling our lives. It's true that suffering can scar or disfigure the soul of a person, but it can also heal and redeem. It is an invitation to share the redeeming pain of the Passion of Jesus.

Suffering then casts us in the mold of Christ Crucified. It then becomes the highest and most fruitful expression of our lives within Christ. And if we suffer with him we will be glorified with him as well. Suffering may deprive you of something you think you need or want, but it also offers something greater in return: a conformity to Christ and a deeper union with him.

Let us all learn to suffer well, as Christ himself did.

-Fr. Barnabas



Quilting Donations Needed

We are looking for some supplies for our quilting elective class next semester.

We need large or small pieces of cotton material, large pieces of solid color cotton material (for the backing of the quilts), batting for inside the quilts, large rotary cutters, cutting boards, and 3 or 4 portable sewing machines (easy for kids to use). If you have any donations, please take them to the school office or contact Patty Hill (hill@saint-johns.net). Thank you!

Advent Wreath Sales

St. John Middle School STUCO (Student Council) is selling Advent wreaths and candles. The sets which include a wreath, four candles, and daily Advent prayers are \$15. Replacement candles (pack of 4) are \$6. Proceeds will help fund the seventh grade trip to Denver and the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. To purchase a wreath or set of candles, email Mrs. Linda Alexander in the school office alexander@saint-johns.net. These items may be billed to your account.

Visit online at sjevangelist.com/school, call (785) 843-9511
or email Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal, at newton@saint-johns.net
for more information and to schedule a tour for you and your student!



SAINT JOHN YOUTH

Children's Holiday Shop: December 2-3, various times (see below)

What is the Children's Holiday Shop? Sponsored by the Lawrence Youth Network, the Children's Holiday Shop gives the elementary students in Lawrence an opportunity to learn about generosity and gratitude through giving to others: www.facebook.com/childrensholidayshop

- **HELP US SET UP.** On December 2, from 3:30-8pm, come and help to set up the Holiday Shop at New York Elementary School. Pizza will be served for dinner (yum!), and there will be lots of moving of boxes/setting up the shop tables/etc. Come and lend a helping hand!
- **VOLUNTEER AT THE EVENT.** This is an absolutely AWESOME way to volunteer as a family. "Christmas Elves" are needed to run departments, help the children select their gifts, serve in hospitality, ring up items as cashiers, etc. Shifts run from 7:30-9:30, 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, and 1:30-3:30pm on December 3. If you/your family would like to volunteer, sign up here: www.sjevangelist.com/youth or email Jen at conrad@saint-johns.net with the time slots you are available! Middle and high school students are especially welcome to get signed up!

Advent Prayer Service and Reconciliation: Wednesday, December 7, 7-8pm, St. John Church

Come join in praise of the Blessed Sacrament and be led in worship by Pete Haack. This event is required for all ROCK students to attend, and we look forward to preparing our hearts for the Incarnation of the Lord with you all!

Christmas Cookie Decorating: December 14, 3:45-5pm @ the Neuvant House

Come and decorate Christmas cookies and sing Christmas carols with the elderly who live at the Neuvant House, a home for those struggling with Alzheimer's disease. Drop off/pick up AT the Neuvant House, 1216 Biltmore Dr.

Learn more about St. John Youth and our upcoming events: sjevangelist.com/youth



THE BEST CATHOLIC CONTENT. ALL IN ONE PLACE.

We are excited to announce that our parish has subscribed to an exciting new online platform: Formed.org.

- 24/7 access to the truth, beauty, and meaning of the Catholic Faith anytime, anywhere... with FORMED
- Use it on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
- Informative and inspiring teaching from renowned speakers Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Edward Sri, Bishop Robert Barron, Dr. Tim Gray, Father Michael Gaitley, Teresa Tomeo... and many more
- Multiple programs to address multiple parish needs:
 - Adult Faith Formation, Marriage Preparation and Enrichment, Scripture Study, RCIA, Sacrament Preparation, Small Group Teen Discipleship, and much more!

Here's how easy it is:

- Go to Formed.org
- Enter our **PARISH CODE** **adf3aa** on the homepage.
- Create a personal account with your user name/email and password.
- Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!

**IMPORTANT: Do not sign up as an individual.
Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription.**

If you have any questions please contact Samantha Romero at sromero@saint-johns.net

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PARISH INFORMATION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Come receive the sacrament of reconciliation in the Padre Pio chapel during any of the following times:

Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 3:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment. Call (785) 843-0109 to schedule, or email:

frjeff@saint-johns.net fbarnabas@saint-johns.net

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastoral Council

Frank Lemus, chair	Sarah Hartsig	Chris Wenger
Mary Menendez	Sean Smith	Nancy Albrecht
Brian Walter	Lily Romero	Bob Trepinski

Finance Council

Brad Finkeldei, chair	Teresa Kempf	Brian Green
Vince Romero	Meredith Lang	Chris Wenger

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

On Saturday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m. St. John will have a Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe (with Mariachi Girasol). Come as you are, or dress in traditional attire and participate in the procession! Please bring non-perishable food items to place in the basket during the opening procession. The celebration will continue after Mass with a reception in the parish hall which will include Mexican hot chocolate, bread and cookies, a bazaar table, raffles and a piñata for the children. On Saturday, December 3, at 11:30 a.m. we will practice our processional and pick one boy to represent Juan Diego and one girl to crown the Virgin Mary during Mass. If you have any questions, contact Connie Garcia at (785) 842-3003. Everyone is welcome to come and join the celebration!

OLG BAZAAR DONATIONS

Calling all bakers, crafters and those with new or gently used "treasures". We will be accepting items for the bazaar table at the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe to be held on Saturday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m.

You may bring items to the church basement on Friday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. (we will be decorating/setting up for Saturday). You may also bring items to the church basement before the 9:00 mass on Saturday. For those with large items or who need more information, please contact:

Lori Wickliffe: (785) 764-1500, mkwick@sunflower.com

or Jennifer Marshall: (785) 218-4244

No donation is too small and all are greatly appreciated!

MINISTERS DECEMBER 3-4

LECTORS

Saturday

4:30pm.....L1: M Mauler; L2: M Powell

Sunday

7:00am L1: T Dowd-Kelne; L2: M Delaney
8:30am L1: K Kohnke; L2: L Sheppard
11:00amL1: C Ehrlich; L2: I Hartsig
5:00pm.....L1: T Edgcomb; L2: D Koger

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday

4:30pm.....G Ohlmacher

Sunday

7:00am..... Volunteers
8:30am..... T Kempf, D Turner
11:00am..... G Malin, E Bial
5:00pm..... L Schmidt, O Schmidt

CANTORS

4:30pm..... A Mauler
7:00amM Steichen
8:30amK Gibb

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday

4:30pm J Halderman, L Heiserman, A Hewitt,
.....B Johnson, J Koster, J McGraw

Sunday

7:00am B Harmon, M Heath, B Menke
8:30amC Johnson, T Kempf, B Kessler, K Kohnke,
..... K Ostrander, Y Ruder, L Scott
11:00amD Bradley, A Brill, C Buchheister, B DeWitt,
..... D&C Ehrlich, J Evers
5:00pmS Murray, T Reznicek, D&E Schmidt,
..... J Weeks, D Wulf-Walter

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor, Social Concerns Committee

We are moving into the time of year during which many of us are extremely busy and extremely stressed for a variety of reasons. Sadly, much of our busyness and the sources of our stress move us away from participating in the activity that is so important in helping us each properly discern and direct our lives. That activity is prayer.

There are different kinds of prayer which you can learn about in the Catholic Catechism; examples would be petition and thanksgiving. And there are different forms of prayer that help us to move inward and do the reflection we need to do in order to properly inform our actions.

Scripture study, (especially study of the Gospels), action and study of other spiritual formation resources inform our prayer life. We take all we know and learn into prayer with us and use it to help us examine our lives and discern what changes need to be made and what positive actions need to take place to bring about needed changes.

The workings of our spirit and our intellect culminate into action. Whether or not we are in touch with how our prayer informs our actions depends how in tune we are with our prayer life and our spiritual self.

The actions we take in our day-to-day lives are important, as they affect what happens to us and what happens to others. The process we use to inform our conscience and to help us in making decisions about what we will do and what constitutes important values is at least equally important.

I invite you to join me this Advent in making every effort to spend time each day in prayer that will guide our actions each day. As we become accustomed to taking time to pray and reflect each day and take stock of our lives, I pray that we take this discipline with us into the rest of the liturgical year, making it a regular part of our lives each day. I pray that we grow in our understanding and experience of the interrelatedness of prayer to action and formation.

FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Fr. Barnabas's class meets Tuesday evenings in the church basement from 7:00—8:30pm, and all are welcome to join at any time! Only two classes remain: November 29 and December 6 (with a possible final class on December 27).

ST. JOHN CAFÉ

Meets Sundays from 9:30-10:30am in the St. Bosco Room. We will **not meet this Sunday, November 27**, but join us again on December 4! Come enjoy good coffee and good conversation with your fellow parishioners—all re welcome!

THAT MAN IS YOU!

We are currently meeting from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. in the church basement. This year's program is The Spirit of Nazareth and is designed for those discerning God's will in their lives. Please give strong consideration to joining a great group of men every Wednesday morning for fellowship and reflection.

MARRIAGE MINUTE

We all have plenty of time. If that seems like a crazy statement, think about what you'd do if you found out there was a huge wildfire coming toward you. Suddenly, your schedule would open up and you'd be able to do what you needed to do to secure your home and family. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to be prepared before disaster strikes. One of the best things we can do on an ongoing basis to keep our family secure is to fortify our marriages. Often, since our marriages seem to be "okay," we turn our time and attention elsewhere. But our marriages are our vocation, our life's work! Don't we owe it to our spouses to invest time in making them great?!

ST. JOHN ON TAP

Want to know more about the Catholic Faith and not sure where to start? Looking for something to do Friday's after work? Have a friend who wants to know more about our Catholic Faith?

St. John on Tap will **Friday, December 2, from 5:00-7:00pm**. Enjoy good beer/wine, munchies and conversation. Come in any time and ask any question about the Catholic Faith to a priest, or just sit and enjoy. **Must be 21 or older*

This Advent, why not adopt one small practice that will bring more joy to your marriage? For ideas, see:

www.joyfulmarriageproject.com



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be held in the month of December (Date TBA). Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Location is the basement of St. John Church. Our council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Darin Denning by phone at **(785) 760-0788**.

On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church starting at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend!

JUSTICE MATTERS



AN INTERFAITH NETWORK WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN LAWRENCE.

The Jail Alternatives Steering Committee from Justice Matters compiled a report called "Restorative Justice at Home: the case for safe, effective alternatives to jail expansion in Douglas County". Following is one article from the report. The entire report can be found at www.justicemattersinkansas.org

FAITH STATEMENT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

As bishops and denominational leaders, we humbly offer this perspective on growing incarceration as inspired by our faith traditions.

Every day Christians pray for justice and mercy in the prayer that Jesus taught us: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Every day Christians recognize both that we are guilty of sin and that we are forgiven: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." This common prayer, the Lord's Prayer, recognizes our failures and offenses, and acknowledges our dependence on God's love and mercy.

In the love of Christ, who came to save those who are lost and vulnerable, we urge policy makers and criminal justice leaders to fund and create systems that ensure the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole.

We believe an overcrowded jail should not inevitably lead to millions of tax dollars to build a bigger jail. Instead it should sound the call for answers to demanding questions. Who is in our jail? Why? Can we prevent crime by investing in job training, affordable housing, addiction counseling, mental health treatment? How can we expand restorative justice practices that seeks to repair the damage, right the wrong, and bring healing to all involved, including the victim, the offender, the families, and the community? How can we shorten jail time as potentially innocent men and women await trial? How do we minimize the toxic stress children endure from having a parent incarcerated? How do we ensure racism does not blind the eye of righteous? How do we prevent dangerous criminals from perpetuating violence? How do prevent excessive incarceration that leads to job and housing loss that leads to more criminal behavior?

These are difficult questions. But now is the time for exploration. Public discussion surrounding the criminal justice system usually begins after one of two things: (1) a high-profile tragedy or (2) an increase in taxes to expand its reach. We can be grateful that it is the latter in Douglas County. That being said, we cannot deny that jails and prisons in the United States have expanded far beyond acceptable levels, and mass incarceration is a societal sin.

So at this time and place Douglas County has an opportunity to take its time and invest its limited resources wisely. We understand prevention and restoration is not the traditional path for policymakers - it will require patience and leadership. We pray our members in Douglas County will support this kind of leadership and become an agent of healing and systemic redemption.

Co-signed:

- *Bishop Roger Gustafson, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Central States Synod*
- *Fr. Christopher Popravak, OSM Cap, Provincial Minister, Capuchin Province of Mid-America*
- *Rev. Landon Whitsitt, Executive & Stated Clerk of the Synod of Mid-America, Presbyterian Church USA*
- *Bishop Dean Wolfe, the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas*

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE & RESERVOIR ADORATION

Wednesday, December 7, beginning at 7:00pm in the church

Come prepare your hearts during this season of advent through the sacrament of reconciliation and with time spent in prayer, song, and silence before the Blessed Sacrament.



STEWARDSHIP OF GENEROSITY

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
Information below reflects donations received
July 1, 2015 through November 6, 2016.

Budgeted weekly amount	\$27,403.84
Average weekly amount	\$25,701.39
Budgeted YTD.....	\$520,672.96
Actual YTD.....	\$488,326.45
Net Shortage	\$32,346.51

ONLINE GIVING

We are grateful for your support of St. John Parish. Our online giving program allows you to make contributions to St. John without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. You may set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time. You may also make pledges and manage your contributions to the pledge amount, and you may make one-time donations to special causes. Visit sjevangelist.com/giving for more information or to set up and manage your account today!

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for people to help with a new Hospitality Committee. The mission of the St. John Hospitality Committee is to make every new and current parishioner feel that they are part of a warm, supportive and hospitable community where "all are welcome."

The Hospitality ministry will help coordinate fellowship events, welcome new people to the parish, welcome new Catholics to the faith, greet people as they come into Mass, and also to help with St. John Café on Sunday mornings. If interested please contact Samantha Romero at:

sromero@saint-johns.net or (785) 843-0109.

MENTOR MINISTRY

Are you looking for a way to build connections at St. John? Feel like you are being prompted to get involved? How about mentoring a New Parishioner? This is a great way to meet new people and share your gift of hospitality with someone who is new to our community.

We are looking for individuals and families who would like to help us out! Contact Samantha Romero for more information:

sromero@saint-johns.net or (785) 843-0109

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

St. John is starting a new ministry called the Marriage and Family Life Ministry. We are looking for people to serve in a helping capacity on three sub-committees. Your commitment can be as little as helping with the various events or you can actually be someone who helps to organize and facilitate.

Please contact Samantha Romero with any questions at sromero@saint-johns.net or (785) 843-0109. Thank you for your prayerful discernment if you can contribute your gifts of service to this new ministry!

ST. JOHN RUMMAGE HOUSE

The Saint John Rummage House is run by volunteers from the Saint John Community and is in need of new volunteers to help keep the ministry thriving. Volunteers work both during store hours and behind the scenes when the store is closed. Sorting crews work Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. The store is open Wednesdays from 11-3, the first and last Thursday of the month from 1-4, and Saturdays from 8:30-12:30. We could use volunteers to fill any of these positions, but are especially in need of volunteers for Thursday afternoons, one or two Thursdays per month.

If you are interested in helping the parish with this ministry, email Linda Brey (lbrey525@gmail.com) for more info.

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

Frank Acinger, brother of Bernadette West
Grace Austin
Gayla Barnes
Marile Berthold
Remi Brown
Chris Crandon
Brock Edwards, son of Scott and Tara Edwards
Mary Kathleen Felton
Buddy Hadl
Terry Hadl
Judy Hill, mother of Marti Frost and Tim Hill
Bob Holek
Lily Hollister, niece of Tom Kellogg
Nancy Hubble, wife of Tom Kellogg
Barb Marden
Patricia McGlamery, mother of Cheryl Hunter
Lou Musante
Theophilus Obiefule
Julie Patterson, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter
CB Riling
Mark Salaman
Julia Scott, friend of Monica Cordova
Mary Kay Seidl
Gerald Simon
Ruth Thesing
Chuck Umscheid
Angelica Villa
Greg Walker, brother of Ted Walker
Tasha Williams
John Woods

ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN

The power of prayer is truly an amazing thing and something all parishioners at St. John can do to help those among us in need of God's divine mercy. Please join our prayer chain to lend your voices and thoughts for those in need. For more information contact Lois Mersmann at lmersmann@saint-johns.net.

ST. MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP

This prayer group meets every Monday at 12:00 noon in the Padre Pio Chapel to pray for our children and grandchildren. In addition to the prayers to St. Monica, we pray the rosary and other prayers for special intentions. Everyone is welcome!

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 23/Mt 4:18-22
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS: NOV 28—DEC 4

Monday: 7:30am Ruth Nolan †
Tuesday: 7:30amMhari Rowell †
Wednesday: 7:30amDorothy Purdy
Thursday: 7:30amGerald Simon
Friday: 7:30am Ruth Theising
Saturday: 8:00am Mark Salmans
4:30pm Grace Tulley †
Sunday: 7:00am Jim O'Toole †
8:30amRamon Romero †
11:00am Jim Freund †
2:00pm (Sp.) St. John Parish
5:00pmBarbara Jean Schreiber Hamiltont

WOMEN'S PRAYER & REFLECTION GROUP

Women's Prayer and Reflection Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month to be prayerfully inspired by Biblical women and the third Tuesday of the month to be inspired by Women Saints.

Join us any time, no preparation necessary. We will meet in St John's school library. If interested contact: Beth Fox (785) 840-5561 or Sophia Compton (785) 727-5784.

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

Meets every **Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.** in St. John's Church. The Queen of Peace Prayer Group is committed to responding to the Blessed Mother's call at Medjugorje to pray from the heart to bring about her plan for peace in the world. The hour includes the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Everyone welcome.

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA ¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **(785) 218-1511**.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

CLASE PREBAUTISMAL La clase pre-bautismal es **cada segundo sábado del mes** en un salón del Ministerio Hispano. Es obligatorio registrarse primero en la oficina parroquial llamando a Jessie al tel. 913 321 1958.

27 de noviembre de 2016

1er DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

El primer domingo de Adviento es el comienzo de un nuevo año litúrgico, estemos preparados o no lo estemos comenzaremos un nuevo ciclo de lecturas y reflexiones que se refieren a todo el misterio de Cristo. Recorreremos nuevamente el calendario de la Iglesia desde la Encarnación del Señor hasta llegar nuevamente a Pentecostés y siempre en actitud de espera del retorno glorioso del Señor. Las lecturas de hoy nos invitan a un nuevo comienzo, a una nueva calidad de espera, de estar vigilantes. Nos advierten que si no estamos atentos será fácil perder el camino. Calidad de tiempo es lo que se necesita ahora, tener en cuenta el momento presente en que se vive. ¿Ha pensado usted lo aprisa que vive? ¿Da calidad de tiempo a su familia?

En el Evangelio y en la Carta a los romanos, se nos recuerda la dimensión del tiempo que no se mide con el reloj o con el calendario. El tiempo del que se habla es de la acción de Dios en nuestra vida. Tiempo que debería ser sagrado para nosotros. Ahora vivimos llenos de citas, la agenda está llena. Pero el tiempo en que Dios entra en nuestra vida en nuestra historia es único. ¡El tiempo de Dios urge en esta sociedad! La invitación para hoy es que no nos dejemos absorber por tanta preocupación. Las personas atentas, vigilantes son de acción. Son las que rompen con todo lo que les ata y domina. Viven vigilantes y caminan con valentía a la luz del Señor.

1er DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Desde los ataques de las Torres Gemelas del 11 de septiembre del 2001, no han dejado de estar alertas las autoridades en caso de algún posible ataque terrorista. Sin embargo, debemos de estar más alertas pues hemos sufrido otros "ataques terroristas" que han dejado una huella profunda de sufrimiento en nuestra sociedad. Hoy iniciamos el Adviento y las lecturas nos invitan precisamente a eso: a estar alertas y bien despiertos. ¡Luz roja! San Pablo advierte que es tiempo de despertarnos. Pero, ¿qué significa esto? ¿Cómo despertar? Es más que escuchar el despertador cada mañana...

Este despertar es un nuevo comienzo que significa ver la cualidad que nos hace falta para comenzar de nuevo. Debemos practicar la habilidad de estar vigilantes. Si no estamos atentos perderemos fácilmente el camino. La vigilancia nos ayuda a ver la realidad de nuestro alrededor y de nuestra propia persona. Al vigilar, nos daremos cuenta en primer lugar del tiempo en que estamos. Es decir, es un tiempo que nos es muy familiar pero al mismo tiempo misterioso. El Señor Jesús y San Pablo nos recuerdan que la dimensión del tiempo no se mide con un reloj ni con el calendario. El tiempo que nos recuerda el Adviento es el tiempo de la acción de Dios en nuestra vida: es un tiempo sagrado y debemos darle importancia. No hay derecho a vivir a la ligera. Si perdemos este tiempo en nosotros mismos, ocupados solamente en nuestros egoísmos, ponemos en peligro la acción de Dios en este tiempo. ¡Preparemos nuestro corazón para recibir al Señor! Aprovechemos el tiempo en ser mejores.



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Las lecturas de la semana del 27 de noviembre de 2016

Domingo:	Is 2, 1-5/Sal 122/Rom 13, 11-14/Mt 24, 37-44
Lunes:	Is 4, 2-6/Sal 122/Mt 8, 5-11
Martes:	Is 11, 1-10/Sal 72/Lc 10, 21-24
Miércoles:	Rom 10, 9-18/Sal 23/Mt 4, 18-22
Jueves:	Is 26, 1-6/Sal 118/Mt 7, 21. 24-27
Viernes:	Is 29, 17-24/Sal 27/Mt 9, 27-31
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