Second Sunday of Advent — December 10, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Our Lord related several parables with the theme of Vigilance. He wanted his followers to fight laziness, torpor, and carelessness in reaching their goal. These defects are farthest from the splendid example given by the Savior of all people, who purposely let himself be born in a working man's family and preferred hard labor to idleness and ease; he could spend whole nights in watchfulness and prayer and would rise early in the morning to be able to pray. Christ was a man who knew no sluggishness.

Why should we, Christians watch? We must be on our guard to receive the Lord, for we do not know the hour of his coming. Watchfulness is the characteristic attitude of the faithful disciple who longs for Christ's glorious return and waits for it in lively hope. The alertness will include a certain restraint in the use of the goods of this world.

But is not the Second coming or Parousia a remote possibility at the present time? That is just what we do not know. God has not chosen to reveal it. But the clear Gospel message is that it will come suddenly like a blitz-krieg and entirely unexpected. Many are not aware of this dire warning of Christ. That is why the new liturgy has put the theme of the Second coming in the forefront, mentioning it after the consecration, as well as in the eschatological petitions of the Our Father, and in the embolism after the Our Father. She wants us to listen to the guiding warning of the Savior.

Alertness on the part of the Christian will ward off the enemy, as St. Peter tells us: "Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in the faith, realizing that the brotherhood of believers is undergoing the same sufferings throughout the world." (1 Peter 5:8-9) A Christian who is vigilant will not come under the spell of the devil's allurements, and will be ready at all times for the Coming of his Lord and Master, even though it be an individual encounter at the end of one's life, when for that individual, the Parousia begins to be realized.

Advent is the time to listen to the words of the Lord in the Book of Revelation: "Wake up! Strengthen what remains.... If you do not rouse yourself, I will come upon you like a thief at a time you cannot know. (Revelation 3:2-3). "Maranatha" is the watchword of the early Christians meaning: "The Lord is Coming!" What hope that ought to instill in us, what new vigor.! As St. Paul tells the Romans. "It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is spent. The day draws near. Let us cast off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.....Put on the Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 13:11-14)

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**December 12**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**December 13**	**11:00AM**
Edgar Allan (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Thur.	**December 14**	**11:00AM**
Angelina E. Francisco†		Lydia & Bob†
Fri.	**December 15**	**11:00AM**
Jorgelia Quiapo †		Lydia
Sat.	**December 16**	**4:30PM**
Thanksgiving		Banaga Family
Sun.	**December 17**	**9:00AM**
Marie D. Smith †		Peña Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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