First Sunday of Advent *November 27, 2022*

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When St. Augustine was forty-three, not long after he had been made a bishop, he tried to recapture the youthful struggle out of which he was delivered, drawn ultimately to God. This he did a religious autobiography entitled "Confessions", thirteen "books" of praise characterized by an anxious turning to the past. He had all but broken with his incontinent life when, living in a rented house with two men friends and his mother, he found himself dipping into the epistles of St. Paul. He tells of hearing the sing song chant of a child from a nearby house, boy or girl he could not tell, intoning repeatedly, "Pick it up and read it." Going back to St. Paul's letters he opened randomly to what we now designate as Roman 13:13 and read from the middle of the verse: "Let us conduct ourselves.....not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." He stuck a marker in the place and brought it to his housemate Alypius, who had been thinking similar thoughts about a change of lifestyle. Alypius took the book from him and read on a little further to: "As for the one who is weak in faith, be welcoming." That said Alypius, describes me. The two young men shortly thereafter made a radical change, together with Augustine's teen-aged son, they asked for baptism.

Do not be surprised if the next three weeks in the Sunday liturgies prove not to be devoted to preparation for Christmas. That begins only one week before the feast itself. It comes with the prayer that brackets Mary's song at Vespers (Evening Prayers): an antiphon begins to address Jesus as, "O Wisdom, holy Word of God,": then, successively: "O Lord, O Shoot of David, O Key of David, O King of all nations," and "O Emmanuel." From the seventeenth of December onward we will know that Christmas is coming. But for now, look for the coming one at an hour we do not expect.

Advent is our time of making ready. It is a brief season, to be lived as if each day will be our last. Our faith is not lugubrious, a daily dose of "Angst." It is, however, a matter of deep seriousness. We know the possibility of living in darkness. Some of of us have lived there. We wish now to live in Christ. Ancient Israel longed for life on the heights of Zion. It ached to walk in the light of the Lord. The Christian hope is the same. Worshiping in spirit and in truth is its dream, not in the mountain nor in Jerusalem but "what we know" in "an hour that is coming."

The light in our lives is the light of Christ. Slouch or stumble toward Bethlehem as we may, let us in genuine repentance proceed toward the one true Light which is Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**November 29**	**11:00AM**
Jorgelia Quiapo (thanksgiving)		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**November 30**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**December 1**	**11:00AM**
Elma Nursement †		ICF #14
Fri.	**December 2**	**11:00AM**
Mary & Bernard Thomas †		Bill & Diane
Sat.	**December 3**	**4:30PM**
Sancho Mangrobang †		Arturo Balagot
Sun.	**December 4**	**9:00AM**
Jorge, Tomasa, José Manuel†		Delgado Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††