First Sunday in Advent — December 1, 2024

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The famous Czechoslovakian film -maker, Milos Foreman, was interviewed a few years ago on television about the prospects for the future. It was the period when all the political changes were taking place in Eastern Europe after the collapse of Communism. He said, they were exchanging the zoo for the jungle. For three generations they had lived in a zoo under the communist dictatorship. Now that the zoo-keepers were disposed of and their cages unlocked, they had all the freedom of the jungle. His comment has since proved prophetic. In the zoo, they were fed and looked after by their keepers, sufficiently though frugally. They had their cages which protected them from the elements and other predators. Their days were passed with regular supervised exercises. All they lacked was the freedom to roam at will. Such was the socialist society under communism. It provided its citizens with housing, education and health services, however basic. Unemployment did not exist officially. They were now released into the wild, to survive in the jungle of capitalist society. Here, the norm is the survival of the fittest,. Jobs are scarce, housing is in short supply and expensive, health services and education are two-tiered. Society is divided into the "haves" and "have nots". It is a "dog eat dog" world. In any case, most zoo-raised animals would not survive in the wild. They have lost the knack of surviving. Forman's prediction came true. A few short years later, they welcomed back their former zoo-keepers. Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic (now Czech Republic and Slovakia) etc., re-elected communist governments.

This weekend, the First Sunday of Advent, we prepare for Christmas and the coming of Christ. But beyond that, we look forward to the Second Coming which Christ speaks about in the Gospel. Recent political events, spectacular though they were, do not herald the imminence of the Second Coming, when Christ will return at the end of the world. But they are straws in the wind that bring it to mind. As the Gospel says we "know not the day or the hour." We must go on living from day to day, yet always remain ready for the Second Coming.

To travel anywhere by Metro in Paris, you must look up the name of the end-line terminus in the direction you wish to go. Once in the underground, you follow the signs with that name. It leads you to a platform, over which hangs a sign with the word "Direction" and the name of that terminus. The next train will take you there. Life is full of cross-roads, spaghetti junctions, crisscrossing routes going in all directions. It is easy to lose the way, to get lost. We can spend all our lives going everywhere and getting nowhere. Advent is a sign-post on our way, giving us direction. The end of the line for us is Christ's glorious advent and eternal life.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**December 3**	**11:00AM**
John Lira †		ICF #14
Wed.	**December 4**	**11:00AM**
Lucy & Leo Bottini †		Bill & Diane
Thur.	**December 5**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**December 6**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**December 7**	**4:30PM**
Teddy & Steve Gallo †		Your Family
Sun.	**December 8**	**9:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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