

ADVENT WEEK 1

This weekend we enter into a new Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent. It is that annual preparation time for the celebration of our Lord's birth, CHRISTMAS. But this period before Christmas is very important. We should not rush too fast into the celebration of Christmas without first availing ourselves to the graces present in WAITING AND PREPARING!

Yes, Waiting and Preparing are HOLY activities. For an example, let us consider an expectant mother awaiting the birth of her child. As she waits she, wonders in awe how her body and psyche are changing with time. She is physically and emotionally preparing to give life and nurture another. She cares for herself differently and tends to her needs more diligently. She knows this is necessary for her and her child's welfare. Her home is prepared, maybe with a new room or furniture; clothes are bought and linens and "baby things." All the while during WAITING there is PREPARING. These two holy activities go hand in hand.

So too it is with our Spiritual lives. We are called during Advent, to Wait and Prepare! Wait on the Lord, seek Him in prayer, in liturgy and in the people around us. Expect Him, He is near! And as we Wait and Seek and Expect, we must Prepare. We must amend and convert our lives, rid ourselves of sin, confess our sins and change how we do things; especially, this is a good time to begin reaching out to others who are in need and less fortunate than ourselves.

It is our prayer here at the Newman House that all of us will grow in holiness during Advent, so that together we will celebrate joyfully, the Lord's coming at Christmas! HOLY ADVENT!!

Last Sunday we celebrated a wonderful Mass and Thanksgiving Dinner together here at the Newman House. We also combined it with a "thank you" celebration for the ministry of 35 years for Fr. Bob Sullivan. Fr. Sullivan was the main celebrant and homilist and as usual was eloquent as he opened the Scriptures for us. Afterwards, over 100 of us enjoyed a Thanksgiving Dinner with all the "fixins."

At the dinner we presented Fr. Sullivan with gifts which included a plaque to be displayed here at the Newman House announcing that we have renamed the Chapel, the FATHER ROBERT SULLIVAN CHAPEL.

A special thanks goes out to all the students who helped with the set-up, decorations, serving and clean-up. It certainly was for me, a memorable and joyful night. We now await our students safe return from their Thanksgiving home visits.

I always feel compelled to seek your assistance and remind you that we are always in need of your generous financial assistance.....Donations may be sent to the address on our homepage. May God bless you and May Mary Keep You always In His Love!

Fr. Corey