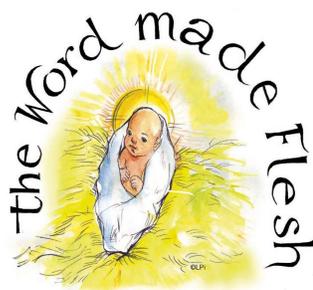


St. Michael Church
Newark, NY



Advent: *Preparing For the Incarnation*

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff
November 28, 2018



Advent: *Preparing For the Incarnation*

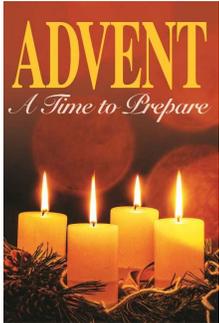


 **Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation**



What do you think of when you hear the word “Advent”?

 **Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation**



Advent = “coming”

We use it to refer to the coming of Jesus.

 **Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation**



What do you think of when you hear the word “Incarnation”?

 **Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation**


O, Holy Night



Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation



IT IS THE
BEAUTIFUL TASK
OF ADVENT TO
AWAKEN IN ALL
OF US MEMORIES
OF GOODNESS AND
THUS TO OPEN
doors of hope.
- JOSEPH CARDINAL RATZINGER



Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation

Incarnation so important that is part of our Nicene Creed that we say on Sundays and solemnities.

“He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was ***incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.***”

 **Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation**

 What is the most important day of the year?

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Easter

↙ ↘

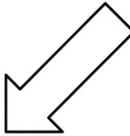
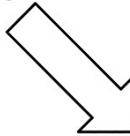
Lent starts on the Wednesday before the sixth Sunday before Easter

- Ascension is forty days following Easter (Acts 1:3)
- Pentecost is fifty days (word means 50 days) after Easter and ends the Easter season




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Christmas


There are always four Sundays of Advent. Advent begins on the first Sunday

- Epiphany is celebrated on the Sunday closest to January 6th (12 days of Christ)
- The Baptism of the Lord is generally the Sunday after Epiphany and ends the Christmas season




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Advent's Place in the Liturgical Year

- Easter is #1, Christmas #2, but Advent marks the start of the liturgical year in the church
- Advent is time to prepare us for the coming of Jesus
- Advent wreaths are used to mark the passage of the four weeks
- Early in Advent, the readings first focus on the Second Coming. As we get closer to Christmas, our readings turn to the first coming of Jesus.
- Why have Penance Services?

 **Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation**

 Why did Jesus become Incarnate?

 **Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation**

 The Incarnation at Christmas as an event vs. the impact of the Incarnation on our lives



Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation

Why did Jesus become Incarnate?

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”



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Why did Jesus become Incarnate? (cont'd)

“For John, the purpose of the Incarnation of the Word was more than becoming flesh to take on our human nature. **The Incarnation also embraced Jesus’ Death and Resurrection—the Paschal Mystery—whose life-giving effects would nourish believers in the celebration of the Eucharist**” (*At Home with the Word 2018, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 119*).



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Why did Jesus become Incarnate? (cont'd)

The Incarnation at Christmas as an event vs.

the impact of the Incarnation on our lives



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Why did Jesus become Incarnate? (cont'd)

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - Hebrews 4:14-16

“Brothers and sisters: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.** So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.”



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Why did Jesus become Incarnate? (cont'd)

Compendium to Catechism Questions 85

“Why did the Son of God become man?

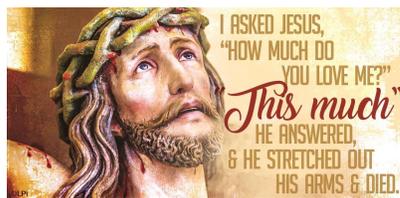
For us men and for our salvation, the Son of God became incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He did so to reconcile us sinners with God, to have us learn of God's infinite love, to be our model of holiness and to make us “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4).”



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Why did Jesus become Incarnate? (cont'd)

Romans 5:8 – “But God proves his love for us that in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”





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Why did Jesus become Incarnate? (cont'd)

Quotes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- “461. Taking up St. John’s expression, “The Word became flesh, the Church calls “Incarnation” the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature **in order to accomplish our salvation in it.**”
- “521. Christ enables us *to live in him* all that he himself lived, and *he lives in us*. “**By his Incarnation, he, the Son of God, has in a certain way *united* himself with each man.**”



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The Incarnation and the Sacraments

God knows that, as humans, we relate better to things we can see in touch. Therefore, in the sacraments, God makes us of things to make us aware of his grace coming upon us.

Examples:

- Eucharist – Bread and wine **become Jesus’ Body & Blood**
- The remainder are symbols
 - Baptism – water, oil
 - Confirmation – oil, laying of hands
 - Anointing of the Sick - oil



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"Our salvation has come about through the Incarnation of the Son of God into the real world of sinful human beings. The Church - as the Body of Christ - must, as a result of Christ's incarnation, itself be incarnational: it is *and must be present* in the real world in and through its all too human, sinful, and fallen members."

(Berg, *Hurting in the Church*, 155)



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"Today we help form Christ's body and presence on earth. The Incarnation is not an experiment that ended when Christ, in us. *It is up to us to actualize Christ's presence on earth.* And we must actualize the whole Christ: his word, his healing powers, his reconciliation, his death and resurrection, and his loneliness. Just as the passion and crucifixion of Christ continue until the end of the world in those who suffer, so, too, the loneliness of Christ continues in all those who are lonely."

(Rolheiser, *The Restless Heart.*, 148)

See my presentation

- *The Journey to Jesus: Acts of Mercy.* online at

<http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video---the-journey-to-jesus--acts-of-mercy.html>.





Advent: Preparing For the Incarnation

Next session

Are They Rules or a Way of Life?:
A Look at the Ten Commandments
and the Beatitudes

Monday, February 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.



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Resources

Berg,, Rev.Thomas, *Hurting in the Church: A Way Forward for Wounded Catholics*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor. 2017.

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church. Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.



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Resources cont'd

Cory, Catherine A. et al, *At Home with the Word 2018: Sunday Scriptures and Scripture Insights, Year B*. Chicago, Liturgical Training Publications. 2017.

DeLorenzo, Leonard J., *Witness: Learning to Tell the Stories of Grace That Illumine Our Lives*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press. 2016

Lang, Rev. Jovian P., OFM, *Dictionary of the Liturgy*. New York, Catholic Book Publishing Co. 1989.



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Resources cont'd

Rolheiser, Ronald, *The Restless Heart: Finding Our Spiritual Home*. Doubleday New York. 2004.

St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition. New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

Tunncliff, Rev. Jeffrey S., *The Journey to Jesus: Acts of Mercy*. March 12, 2018. Video of Presentation available online at <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video---the-journey-to-jesus--acts-of-mercy.html>.