

# Reflection of the Month



## December- "Adventus"

As we begin the festive holiday season, let us first remind ourselves to set time aside to prepare for the coming of the holy season of Christmas. We should not allow the noisiness and busyness of this time of year to distract us from focusing on the importance of being spiritually prepared for the Coming of the Lord. As we anticipate Christmas, the Church gives us a "season of preparation" called Advent. This time of "adventus," of "waiting," is to help prepare and guide us to the holy and glorious season of Christmas.

There are times during the four weeks of Advent when we realize that we need help to keep things in perspective. There is one person who can assist us to focus and prepare for the celebration of the Incarnation. This person is, no other than, Our Lady. She personally, and wholeheartedly, prepared herself for the coming of the Messiah. She did so by faithful obedience in seeking God's will in her life. In her grace-filled anticipation for the fulfillment of the coming of God's Promised One, she, at the appointed time, was overshadowed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to her surprise, became the Mother of her long-awaited Savior.

As we reflect, and prayerfully anticipate the coming of Christ, we are reminded during the liturgical season of Advent, that we are honored to have two Marian feasts during the month of December: the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Within these two great celebrations, Our Lady journeys with us to Bethlehem, the City of David, known as "the house of bread." It is at the manger that we encounter the "Bread of Life" - the Christ Child. This Jesus, who is Love Incarnate, gives us the gift of himself which we receive and consume into our lives. Amazingly, it is the fire of his Divine Love which, in turn, consumes us!

Brothers and sisters, may Our Lady of Bethlehem help us this "adventus" to prepare for the coming of her Son Jesus, the "Consuming Love;" he who is Emmanuel, "God with us!"

A Blessed Advent and Christmas Season to one and all!

"Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and coming of the glory of our great God." Timothy 2:12-13

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