

Missal Campaign starts  
tonight -- in Morrissey  
and Lyons halls, with ...

University of Notre Dame  
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...student soliciting. Both  
the idea of a Missal and the  
bargain rate are eminently  
sound.

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Let's Finish Strong

It is the urgent request of Father Hesburgh, President of the University, that the entire Notre Dame family make the most of the last nine days of the Marian Year in paying special tribute to the Blessed Mother. Obviously, it is a special time to ask her protection on ourselves, our school, and our families.

Accordingly, we are all asked to join in a campus-wide Novena of daily Mass, Communion, and recitation of the Rosary with devotion and confidence -- that we may deserve the fullness of her intercessory power. Surely, we love our families who are in need of many blessings. Surely, we love Notre Dame, and are interested in her continued success. Surely, we are interested in our own welfare!

In our humility, we know that we need her help all the day long, as any child needs its mother. If we have watched the Marian Year go by with little or no show of love or devotion -- then make the most of these last nine days. It is not yet too late to add our presence and our prayers to the magnificent display of love and devotion that has surged upward from every corner of the earth, these past twelve months. We can make of these last nine days an edifying show of our best effort in honoring God's Mother as she alone deserves to be honored. Start Tuesday morning with Mass.

The Marian Year closes December 8, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The Meaning of Advent

Advent, which began yesterday, is one of the most distinctive of the ecclesiastical seasons; it ranks with Lent in importance and impressiveness. You saw the priest in purple vestments; you noticed the absence of music and elaborate ornaments on the altar. This sudden departure from the Pentecostal cycle is arresting. It is intended to produce in us a mood of waiting, of expectancy, of preparation for some great event.

The four weeks of Advent represent the thousands of years during which the world waited for the coming of the Saviour. It was a period of darkness, but it was not unvisited by stars. The chosen people had kept before them the promise of a Redeemer; They had nourished their spiritual life on that hope. Occasionally God sent a great leader among them to rally their flagging spirits, to divert them from neighboring pagan customs and beliefs, and to refresh their minds and hearts in the expectation of a Saviour Who was to rise among them, and redeem them.

And so, the Church sets aside the four weeks of Advent to enable us to prepare for Christmas. We are to get ready for it in such a way that Christ's Mass on that day will call the first Christmas up out of the past. It is also a time for us to point to the parousia -- the second coming of Christ in triumph, at the end of the world.

There is an old song that tells us to "Be ready when the great day comes!" There is more truth than melody in the line, too. It is not too far removed from the thundering cry of St. John the Baptist: "Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight His paths," as he called the people to penance and prayer. Advent should fill us with sorrow for our sins. It should inspire us with hope. It should implant confidence in God's mercy toward all sinners who turn to Him. For the Advent Masses stress the truth that Christ will come again a second time and vindicate our faith in Him. And when He comes, he will tell us all things, answering the "why" of sorrow and pain, letting us see how it was necessary for us, as it once was for Him, to suffer and so enter into glory.

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PRAYERS -- Deceased: friend of John Suttner of Lyons; Albert Butler, '33; grandmother of Rudy Hammond (O-C); mother of Sister Nazareta, CSC; Msgr. Edward Mungoven; Mother Josefa, O. Carm. Ill; John Francis, '40; friend of Bill Squires of Badin. 2 Sp. Int.