

University of Notre Dame

Tonight at 6:45: Novena
to the Sorrowful Mother
in Sacred Heart Church.

Religious Bulletin
November 30, 1956

Tomorrow: First Saturday
of the month -- Fatima
Devotions in private.

Advent Begins Sunday

This Sunday, when you follow the Mass with your missal, you'll note that the Gospel has to do with the end of the world -- just as it did last Sunday -- and the second coming of Our Lord in all His might and majesty. There's a reason for the repetition: this two-fold discussion of Our Lord's coming.

First: the people of the Old Testament were set aside from their pagan neighbors and pagan environment by God's direct leadership. He gave laws to Moses; and these laws shaped them into His chosen people -- in spite of rebellion, disobedience, and unfaithfulness -- until they were ready to play their part in the divine plan. For 4000 years, the Jewish people kept alive the belief that a Redeemer would be sent by God. From time to time, God sent prophets who reminded them of this fact; who filled in the picture with numerous details concerning Him. The Virgin Mary -- the glory of her people -- was the very flowering of this long and painstaking education. And when the Angel Gabriel came down to announce to her that she had been selected as the Mother of the Redeemer, and she accepted the task, the first Advent began to terminate.

To commemorate these 4000 years of watchful waiting for the Redeemer of the world, the Church sets aside these four Sundays that precede Christman Day.

Secondly: Christ will come again. And that's the reason for the repetition of the Gospel. The Church again tells us that He will come in glory and majesty, to judge the living and the dead, and the world, by fire. The Church also tells us to reevaluate the things of the world in the light of the world to come; to do penance; to straighten out spiritual disorder in our lives. In a word: to be prepared and ready for the Day of Judgment -- because we don't know the day nor the hour of His coming. It's another invitation for us to make sure that we are living in the state of grace, prepared for any eventuality, sudden death or otherwise. It's also an invitation to do penance for all our failings of the past.

Never Mind The Hucksters

The ungodly recoil at the thought of this second coming. The idea of a Judgment Day is irritating, maybe even terrifying. And so, they ignore it altogether, and concentrate on Christmas carols, and shopping sprees, and dollar values, and gift-buying. They hustle Santa Claus into the picture a month ahead of schedule.

But the Church doesn't dismiss Advent so lightly. Rather, she echoes the thunderous voice of John the Baptist calling all to penance: "Make ready the way of the Lord; make straight His paths." The Church doesn't make any mistake at all.

These days of Advent, then, are days of prayer and penance. See that you make them realities in your own lives through Highly In Order program available to you.

Highly In Order

We like the suggestion of the Student Senate that greater attention be given to neat attire at the Sunday Masses in Sacred Heart Church. Thus far, we've left much to be desired. And so, if you have a Sunday suit, wear it to Mass -- as you would to the Morris Inn, or to St. Mary's. We're not stuffy, mind you, just neat. Even more important: Be on time.

PRAYERS: Deceased: grandfather of Bill McCoy of Farley; Jose Falomir, '02; father of Harry Becker, '36; Hugh Mitchell, '95; Thomas Hammer, '06. Ill: grandmother of Richard Rutherford (Old College). 2 special intentions.