

December 2020



varEmail

Dear varTitle varFirstName varLastName,

As I lay my head on my pillow and reflect on my day, giving glory and thanks to God, I give thought to those who have gone into the hospital with COVID-19, only to die, never to return to their home. My heart is saddened. Naturally, my mind goes there as I think about my own COVID infection. Do I have my affairs in order? Am I ready for this? What if I never come home again? I don't feel all that well to make sure everything is in order. The choice may not be mine.

How about you? How about your loved ones? How about those that you are bringing into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ? What are we, you and me, doing to help those in our lives prepare for the day that they don't come home? The day we don't return to our earthly home is the day we are going someplace else. Right? Ready or not.

The First Sunday of Advent, in the Gospel reading from Mark 13:33-37, Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You don't know when the time will come. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" Are we not instructed by our Savior to be ready, to be prepared, for we do not know the day nor the hour?

The Second Sunday of Advent comes to us from the Gospel of Mark 1:1-8. The first Gospel, the first chapter, the first verse. THE BEGINNING of the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST, the SON of GOD. We learn that as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way (my emphasis on the italicized). A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." We have been baptized and confirmed. We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. How is your relationship with your Paraclete, your Advocate? And repentance for the forgiveness of sins. What a blessing! I, we, need to spend more time with a priest in penance repenting our sinful ways, whatever they may be. For some of us, more is expected. Right?

Our Fourth Sunday of Advent comes from the Gospel of Luke 1:26-38, where the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin named Mary, betrothed to a man named Joseph. Coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And of his kingdom there will be no end." God sent his Son to redeem us. Thanks be to God. We know, as Christians, with confidence, there is no end. Now it is up to us!

This very moment, let us drop to our knees and give ALL the glory and honor to the Trinity, thanking Jesus for blessing of knowing the Trinity. And with confidence this day, should we not return to our earthly home, we know that Jesus has prepared a place for us in eternity. May God be with YOU forever. Amen.

St. Joseph, hear our prayers.

Happy Advent. Merry Christmas.

Men of Action - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

[Please Note: In order to decrease the potential spread of the COVID 19 virus, the MOA are not personally signing your prayer letter this month.]