

ADVENT I - 2014
SERMON-SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
FATHER JOHN ALTBERG
COLLECT, ROMANS 8.8, MATTHEW 21. 1

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Straight from the Saint Joseph Parish Newsroom...In keeping with the New Church Year...a new approach...the first ever Three Act – think THREE ACTIONS - Homily...!

Action I LEARN...

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi...rough translation from Latin...As we pray, we believe, we live...

Sound familiar...? In his excellent sermon on Trinity 17, Father Craig Looney called attention to these words on the Saint Joseph Parish website...and, his Latin being far more advanced than mine, he noted...we should add Lex docendi...WE TEACH

What has all this possibly to do with this, the First Sunday in Advent of the new Church Year 2015...? Rest easy, this is NOT a Latin test...

This takes a next step from the premise put forth in the Advent Edition of The Parish Times...and it's about the importance of the Liturgical Calendar that systematically teaches us the Church Year...and why we should care...! We should care because the Church teaches us about life...if we pay attention, we get smarter every year...

If you should sense I am promoting 2015 Ordo Kalendars, the answer is yes...relax, you do not have to buy one...they are free...take one, prominently post and use it...today...!

Everyone's part of the deal...seriously apply it to daily life...

Action II ORGANIZE...

Daily life in most venues, including various religious bodies is increasingly defined by whimsical random access...disorder...whatever comes to mind...a slip pulled from the job jar...identifying suddenly with a public figure or celebrity of whom one knows little...by contrast, I wrote in THE PARISH TIMES, *Judeo - Christian discipline – orthodox Catholic practice, sees time in progressive – think Processional - terms...it has a beginning and will have an end. Within the annual cycle of Church Year we experience annual meditations on the life and death of Jesus and all*

the saints and where we fit into the picture. Think of a spiral -- a circle within time moving ever forward from the prophecies and Annunciation of the birth Jesus to His Coming again – thereby we are living the Church Year to derive a real sense of time and urgency...as an antidote to chaos, our work throughout the Church Year integrates religious, cultural and naturally occurring annual cycles to teach orderly access to God's revelation of life.

Action III – ELECT LIFE...

Focusing on the term Procession...that which will especially undertaken at 4 PM today...seriously consider the Collect for Advent Sunday...think progress...

GOD HELP US STOP BEHAVING BADLY...DOING THINGS WE TRY TO HIDE, HELP US DO THINGS WE WANT PEOPLE TO SEE...THINGS JESUS TEACHES SO WHEN HE COMES BACK TO JUDGE BOTH THOSE ALIVE AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, ALL MAY BE READY AND ABLE TO SEE YOU IN HEAVEN.

While we prefer the “nicer” version Archbishop Cranmer composed for the BCP...it's prettier, gentler...the paraphrase removes any doubt about what we must do...**Get Our Lives in Order.**

Getting ready for has no greater demand than making certain disorderliness does not define us...

Of great concern is the resulting escalation of apostasy...humanity's dismal rejection of God...turning a blind eye toward suffering and the common good.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his writing *SAVED BY HOPE* strongly criticized this escalating rampant atheism. He profoundly stated is has led to some of the "greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice" ever known. At the same time, he notes, dependency leads only to self-destruction.

We must take serious action on his comments and today's Epistle to facilitate physical and spiritual readiness for Christmas...if we focus on St. Paul's checklist we find ourselves naturally prepared on all fronts. Failure to follow will render us ill-prepared...in a hopelessly messy state.

Procession...the process of moving forward...Advent Sunday is the annual restart of that orderly cycle...from which we derive Progress...the Reward is LIFE...now and in heaven...the choice is ours...

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