

II ADVENT 2014

SERMON – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

FATHER CRAIG LOONEY

THE COLLECT

✠

Lex Orandi...Lex Credendi...Lex Vivendi...
Lex Docendi...We Pray...We Believe...We
Live...We Teach...the FOUR ACTIONS that
define our parish and why we are here today!

In the Collect for the Second Sunday in
Advent we ask God to help us HEAR, READ,
MARK, LEARN AND INWARDLY DIGEST the
words of Holy Scripture. These are FIVE
ACTIONS that help us LEARN, ORGANIZE
and ELECT LIFE...the key Advent ACTIONS in
Father Altberg's Advent I Sermon.

WE HEAR...

...Holy Scripture read aloud at every Mass.
And the Liturgy for Lessons and Carols for
Advent Sunday moves us in a magical
procession of Scripture and Music through
the entire Advent Season...the perfect
commencement of our preparation for
Christmas. But hearing Holy Scripture read
aloud at Mass is not enough. We must read it
for ourselves.

WE READ...

...Holy Scripture...where to begin? The task
of reading Holy Scripture is made less
daunting...in fact it's made easy for us...by
the Lectionary in the front of the *Book of
Common Prayer*. We are provided with a
systematic and orderly way of reading most of
Holy Scripture during the course of the
Church Year. And 75% of the content of the
Book of Common Prayer is taken directly
from Holy Scripture...the Psalms, Epistles and
Gospels. Now we need to mark what we
have read.

WE MARK...

...Holy Scripture...literally...and in our
hearts! Most of us have a favorite verse in
Holy Scripture we have committed to
memory. Many of us even highlight or
underline those passages...because they give
us strength...and because they teach us to
trust God and believe in Jesus. My favorite
underlined verse: "I came that they might
have and enjoy life and have it in abundance
(to the full, until it overflows)." (John 10:10)
Now it's time to learn what we have read for
ourselves and marked in our hearts.

WE LEARN...

...from Holy Scripture...how to conduct
ourselves as God's children and how to
pattern our lives in an orderly and productive
way. Perhaps we first heard Bible stories
when we were young children. Perhaps our
parents or Sunday School teachers had us
memorize certain verses. Memorizing Bible
verses is fine as far as it goes...but we must
do more...we must let Holy Scripture teach
us how to transform our lives and those
around us. We must inwardly digest what we
have heard, read, marked and learned.

WE INWARDLY DIGEST...

...Holy Scripture...think comfort food of the
Spiritual kind. We eat ordinary food because
without sustenance we would die. When we
try to eat healthy foods and let them digest
properly we stay strong. When we let Holy
Scripture and the Blessed Sacrament...Word
and Sacrament, Sacrament and Word...feed
us...we stay Spiritually strong. Inwardly
digesting Holy Scripture means letting it
radically transform our lives to the extent it
changes us for the better and becomes a part
of our very being.

WHAT'S NEXT?

What's next is back to the beginning...back
to the Collect for the Second Sunday in
Advent. We acknowledge that God himself
caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for
our learning...they are not made up stories.
We ask him to open our minds and our
hearts...to help us hear, read, mark, learn and
inwardly digest Holy Scripture...to
continually read and be strengthened by
them.

Advent is about taking ACTION in our
lives...to ask God to help us get our lives in
order...to stop doing bad things and to start
doing good things...to never give up and to
be patient...to remain steadfast...as we
embrace...we enthusiastically welcome with
open arms...the promise of everlasting life
God has given us through his Son, Jesus.

✠