

Deacon Tony's Homily for the First Sunday in Advent

Happy New Year to you all. It is the beginning of the Church year, and our hearts wish to get off to a perfect start with God.

Advent means "COMING". In our Church it refers to the first Coming of Jesus who is our Savior. God promised that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. And there are many references to God's promise to His children.

Now, many of the Jewish people expected a military leader that would free their people physically so that Jerusalem shall dwell secure and Judah shall be safe. They couldn't have been more wrong.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns how He will appear amid much turmoil and destruction. Heaven and earth will be shaken, and our faith will be challenged. In our Creed we recite that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. This is the Lord's second coming.

There is actually a third coming of Jesus. This is where Jesus comes in the silence of our hearts to enter into a covenant relationship that is so personal that only we and Jesus can experience it together. Words cannot explain it, books cannot teach it.

It is only in this relationship that we can truly live as if the Lord is coming today. That we can always be alert and aware of the life that God has chosen for us. That we have the need to share God's grace through good deeds and love for our neighbor. So that all can see that we do not live for ourselves but we live to do the will of God.

Jesus is the only one who can offer this grace and we are the only ones that can agree to live by it.