



## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Ps 25:(1b)4-5,8-10,14  
1 Thess 3:12--4:2  
Luke 21:25-28,34-36

### Monday November 29

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Ps 122:1-9  
Matthew 8:5-11

### Tuesday November 30

#### St. Andrew

Romans 10:9-18  
Ps 19:8-11  
Matthew 4:18-22

### Wednesday December 1

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Ps 23:1-6  
Matthew 15:29-37

### Thursday December 2

Isaiah 26:1-6  
Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a  
Matthew 7:21,24-27

### Friday December 3

#### St. Francis Xavier

Isaiah 29:17-24  
Ps 27:1,4,13-14  
Matthew 9:27-31

### Saturday December 4

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26  
Ps 147:1-6  
Matthew 9:35 -- 10:1,5-8

Today's world needs Christians who truly understand that faith gives us hope and victory in the midst of any and all difficulties.

Taking this even further, today's world needs Catholics who truly understand that going to Mass means having faith in miracles -- especially the miraculous transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Are you changed by the presence of Christ in the Eucharist? If so, then after you exit the church, others see evidence of this faith -- right?

There's a difference between "knowing" the truths of our faith and authentically living these truths.

What prayer requests have you made in which you're still waiting for God to provide his help? When you offer them to Jesus during the prayers of Mass, do you feel the hopefulness that comes from faith?

During the consecration of the Eucharist, if we do not have faith in God's ability to change bread and wine into Christ -- an ability that does not rely on the how holy the priest is -- we won't have faith to recognize that Jesus is ministering to us in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming, but we can also relate it to our daily lives today.

We all have new tribulations looming in the future, un-

known and unpredictable. That's life on earth! And Jesus wants to help us through them. Faith in this gives us hope and victory.

However, when our focus is on our troubles instead of on Christ, we are not living in faith. Jesus warned us about our hearts becoming spiritually drowsy. This is when we lose faith. We forget to remain centered in Christ. We neglect to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

But when we ask Jesus to restore us to a life of faith, we become vigilant, expectant, and aware that we can rely on God to help us in whatever comes our way.

Our tribulations makes us fearful. Faith gives us reasons to hope in Jesus and to live in joy instead of fear. It's not easy! It takes conscious effort. But spiritual drowsiness is a miserable way to live.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What are you waiting for from Jesus?
2. How will you use the Season of Advent to grow in faith by noticing the loving, generous, merciful activities of God?
3. What are your favorite ways to prepare for Christmas?
4. How do you make Advent a season of hope and a time of growing in faith?