

Sunday, November 29, 2009

Homily by Fr. Kazimierz Ligeza

Once again His goodness, God is giving us the season of Advent -- the special time of preparation, this important time for our getting ready for Jesus' coming. Advent comes from the Latin "Adventus" which means "the one who is coming". We are waiting for our special guest. We are waiting for our Savior. We are waiting for the one who again and again brings joy and happiness to our lives. But we need to be prepared! That's why only in the church can we experience this special time of being quiet to reflect on our lives. What is the true meaning of Advent? It is being ready to welcome God to our lives. The Greek language has two terms for "time". The first one is ordinary time (Kronos). The second one is Kairos which is a time of grace, a time of blessing. Advent reminds us of how God comes to our regular and ordinary time with his graces and blessings. We are invited during this time to think about the gift of our "lifetime". Time is a gift from God and we are given only one lifetime. Now it's up to us as to how we use this gift of "time". The advent wreath with four candles is symbolic of Jesus who is the Light of the World ... Who brings the light to this world ... Who enlightens the darkness of this world and of our lives. In today's gospel, Jesus is telling us how to be prepared for his coming. He says "be vigilant and pray to have strength". In our parish we will have a great opportunity to spend some time in private with Jesus. Every Friday during Advent there will be the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our daily chapel after the Mass at 8:00a.m. until the evening Mass at 6:00p.m. Every one is invited to spend some quality time with Jesus and to experience His presence that brings peace and blessings to our lives. Let us welcome His light to our lives, to our families, to our workplaces. Let us open our hearts and minds to Jesus who is coming again to be with us, and for us. He Who is Emmanuel -- "God with us". This first week of Advent, let us pray very often: Jesus come into my life; Jesus be with me; Jesus stay with me. And you will see that he never disappoints you. Amen.