

Advent Journey to Jesus Through Mary

First Sunday in Advent



St Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort

“It is through the most Blessed Virgin Mary that Jesus Christ came into the world, and it is also through her that he will reign in the world.”

-St. Louis de Montfort, *True Devotion to Mary*

Advent is a season of preparation; preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Therefore, the proper preparations must be made: preparing the house for the family, food for the guests, and gifts for the children. But let us note that we ought to turn thoughts upwards and inwards.

The true house to be readied is our bodies which are temples of the Holy Spirit. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you...?” (cf. 1 Cor 6:19). We recall the words of Jesus when He says to us, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (cf. John 14:23) whereby we become the dwelling place of the Holy Trinity by keeping God’s Word.

The true food is the Body of Christ who is the Bread of Life, which we must ready our hearts to receive as our daily bread in the Eucharist. Finally, the true gift is the Gift of God Himself, namely, the Holy Spirit who is poured forth into our hearts (cf. Romans 5:5) and testifies with our spirit that we are children of God whereby we cry out, “Abba! Father” (cf. Romans 8:16-17). We are the children who are receiving and have received the gift (cf. Acts 2:38; 1 John 2:20-28)! We should be called children of God and so we are (cf. 1 John 3:1)!

Advent culminates with the coming of Christ, whose Incarnation is our Christmas gift. Let us call to mind the way by which God willed to send His Son: through the Immaculate Ever-Virgin Mary. The first Saint in our preparation for Marian Consecration is St. Louis de Montfort, who points out that since it is through Mary that Jesus comes into the world, it is

through her that He will reign. It is not only in the world that He must reign, but also in the hearts of all mankind.

St. Louis de Montfort was so moved by Mary's special place in the story of salvation that he dedicated himself to the promotion of Marian devotion with the knowledge that if anyone desires to come to Christ, they must go through His Mother. If any are to have God for their Father, they must also have Mary as their Mother, since it is by her that Jesus comes to us and we then become children of God.

Mary continues in this role of spiritual motherhood throughout the ages. If we desire to grow closer to God, who better to lead us than the Immaculate Mother of God. If someone were to bring a gift to the King, wouldn't it be better to first give it to the Queen, who would then place it on a golden dish surrounded by flowers before presenting it to the King herself? With Mary as our mediator, our prayers, now offered as a gift, have been united to the love and care of Jesus's mother. How could Jesus turn such a prayer down?

This Advent Season we are given yet another chance to approach the Lord. We can do so alongside the woman who knew and loved Jesus in a unique and powerful way. Guided by his Mother, we can echo her words and sing, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior" (cf. Luke 1:46).