



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

Three days after her arrival in Milwaukee, a missionary nun from Africa was told that time will change and everyone will fall back by an hour. It was what we experienced a couple weeks ago; Daylight Savings Time.

Back home in Africa, it was unheard of that time will change. She began to wonder how time will change. She stayed awake the whole night waiting to see how the time will change and nothing changed on her watch or the clock on the wall.

Early in the morning, she went to the chapel for the usual Morning Prayer. She met no one in the chapel since she had arrived an hour early. Everyone else had put their watch and clocks back an hour.

After waiting for 15 minutes she said her prayers and went back to her room. An hour later, other members of her religious community gathered to say their morning prayer.

To the African nun who stayed awake the whole night, nothing changed yet something changed.

Sounds foolish, but I put this new time before us. It is called Advent.

Advent season is a new time. It is the beginning of a new liturgical season. Last Sunday with the celebration of the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the church marked the end of the Year "C" liturgical season. Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin the Year "A" liturgical season. The principal Gospel we shall read on most Sunday masses of the year will come from the gospel of St. Matthew. We will hear his take on the life of Jesus.

During this season of Advent, Christians prepare for two comings – the coming of the Lord on Christmas Day and the final coming of the Lord at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. So, the readings in Advent will speak to those two comings of the Lord; both comings call for preparation through prayer, fasting, and good works.

I invite all of us to hear these readings as if the first time or for those us who are older, maybe hear these readings as if it will be our last time to hear these readings. Then we will sense the Advent season in a fresh way.

We prepare to celebrate the PAST, when Jesus was born in Jerusalem, the PRESENT when Jesus is born on Christmas Day through the people and situations we find ourselves in, and the FUTURE when Jesus will return at the End of Time.

For our African nun in the story she lost track of real time, as she was unaware of Daylight Savings Time in the United States.

For us our readings remind us to be aware that the time has changed. Will our hearts really journey this Advent to be closer to the Lord, who was born for all of us on Christmas and is still being born in new ways around us.

We just have to take the time to notice.

Have a great Advent!

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word

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