

## Come Let Us Adore Him – II



During the Season of Advent, we lit candles to represent Christ, light of the world. Advent comes from the Latin word for a "coming". Advent means that the Lord is coming. The vision of life that Advent gave us is twofold; it looked to the future when Christ will come again (second coming), and it looked back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem. In the interval between these two events, we find meaning for our life as a Christian. The Christmas Season is a time in which we each try in our own way to become closer to and more like our savior Jesus Christ.

Each candle reminded us of Christ's message of: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, and that we were preparing for something incredibly special.



During the Mass, the priest speaks these words as he holds the communion host, "...He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you". When the priest says "this my body", and "this is the chalice of my blood," it is that instant when, through the miracle of transubstantiation, the bread and wine which we offer as the bloodless sacrifice to our Lord truly become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. It is His true Presence in the form of bread and wine. It is Christ.

During the Christmas Season, we sing Come, let us adore Him, Come, let us adore Him, Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. We worship and adore Christ at every Mass.

"In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us... Receiving the Eucharist means adoring Him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy." (Pope Benedict XVI)

Another unique way Jesus is present with us is in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacred Host is placed in a gold vessel (Monstrance) for exposition (viewing) of the Blessed Sacrament. Here in His humility, hidden in the simple form of bread, Jesus waits for you. Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist helps us focus our prayers on Jesus Christ, who is the Blessed Sacrament.



When we want to meet with one of our friends, we both need to fit it into our schedule, so we have time to visit, see, and talk with each other. Talking on the phone is nice, but the whole experience is different and much more meaningful when we are physically present with each other. With Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, He waits for you to come and visit with Him. Prayer in His presence takes on a whole new dimension.

Jesus calls us to spend time with Him - To visit with Him - To bring ourselves as we are to Him. He wants us to come and be with Him. "He gives Himself to us and we respond by giving ourselves to Him... Adoration means entering the depths of our hearts in communion with the Lord, who makes Himself bodily present in the Eucharist. In the monstrance, He always entrusts Himself to us and asks us to be united with His Presence, with His risen Body." (Pope Benedict XVI)

Here at St. Patrick Parish, we have the special grace of having the Good Shepherd Adoration Chapel, next to the Parish Office. Jesus is present in the Chapel every day. The Church teaches that the Blessed Sacrament is not to be left unattended when exposed.

The season of Advent was our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Catholic community. Thus, we are prepared not only for Christmas, but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when He comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

Why not come during the week to visit with Jesus and spend some time talking and listening to Him. It will provide you a sense of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that cannot be described in words.