

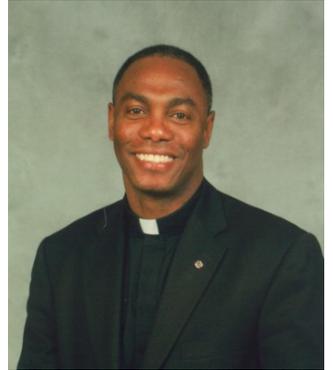
## From Our Pastor

My dear sisters and brothers,

Stay awake!

The first reading today ends with the phrase: *“O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!”*

What a wonderful message for us to hear as faith community entering the Advent. We know this light today. It comes from Christ who invites us to venture forth from our inner dark places. This reading contains a vision of universal peace and an invitation to participate in that peace through faithfulness to God’s word. *“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, no shall they train for war.”*



In every mass we celebrate this peace by offering one another a sign of peace. Let us not restrict this sign only to the mass; but let us carry it out into the world and make it a reality at every chance we have: private and public, individual and social, religious and political. And this advent waiting is not just a passive waiting for the coming of another Christmas holiday, but rather an active, concrete contributing to the present and the future final coming of the perfectly peaceful kingdom of God.

Called to leave behind our anxieties, fears, discouragement, sinfulness, we come out to be refreshed in hope and life with God and with one another. Advent awakens in us the yearning to be more faithful to the liberating way of living with God.

*That is also Paul’s exhortation to us in the second reading when he says: “let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”*

For Christians, this new beginning is also a reminder of the hope in which we live. That hope has its source in the birth of a child some two thousand years ago – a child we know in our hearts to be God-with-us. In this season, we share into the hope of our ancestors who eagerly awaited this birth. We enter into this hope that Christ will- even now – be born in our hearts and minds so that we might be transformed by his spirit.

Noah was truly an advent man! He knew the future that was coming and prepared for it because he listened to God. We too, know our future: the son of man will come to establish God’s kingdom of peace (first reading). We must prepare by staying awake! (Gospel) and conducting ourselves properly.

I wish you all a blessed Advent!

Father Edmond Aristil