

# Dear Padre,

## Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren" (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	Gn 49:2, 8-10	Jer 23:5-8	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Is 7:10-14	Is 7:10-14
Mt 21:23-27	Mt 21:28-32	Mt 1:1-17	Mt 1:18-25	Lk 1:5-25	Lk 1:26-38	Rom 1:1-7
						Mt 1:18-24



### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.*

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11



Say to the fearful of heart:  
Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;  
With divine recompense  
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



## The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**W**e sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

### Reflect

**Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?**



# Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



**Saturday, December 13: 4:00 pm**

Jasper Sullivan's 10th Birthday (Sullivan Family)

Angel Guerrero's Birthday (Yesenia Guerrero)

**Sunday, December 14: 8:00 am**

People of the Parish

**Monday, December 15: 8:00 am**

Rest of the soul of Frank S. Canale (Beverly Canale)

**Friday, December 19: 8:00 am**

Rest of the soul of Heather Jenkins (Vallee Family)

Rest of the souls of Carl & Charlotte Toon (Toon Family)

**Saturday, December 20: 4:00 pm**

People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 21: 8:00 am**

Rest of the souls of Jack & Theresa Haddad (Atwill Family)



Sunday, December 14:

PRE la Posada during PRE Class

Monday, December 15:

Advent Penance Service @ St. Jude 6pm

Tuesday, December 16:

Greening of the church 3pm

Sunday, December 21: No PRE

Monday, December 22-Friday, January 2:

Church office is closed

Wednesday, December 24:

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 4pm @ St. Jude

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 9pm @ IC

Thursday, December 25:

Christmas Day Mass 8am @ IC

Christmas Day Mass 10am @ St. Jude

Sunday, December 28: NO PRE

Wednesday, December 31:

Holy Day of Obligation Mary, Mother of

God Vigil Mass 4pm @ St. Jude

Thursday, January 1:

Holy Day of Obligation Mary, Mother of

God Mass 10am @ IC

**Parish Offertory**  
Weekly Budget: \$5,400  
December 7, 2025



Regular Offertory: \$ 4,485  
Online Giving: \$ 1,188  
\$ 2730

Parish Improvements: \$ 1,735  
Families giving with Envelopes or Online Giving: 62 out of 179  
**Thank you for your generosity & support!**



WAYS TO GIVE



Eucharistic Ministers

&  
Lectors



December 20 & 21—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Lector:

4:00pm: Dawn Lattus & 8:00am: Julie Cunningham

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00pm: Mike Vallee & 8:00am: Paul Cunningham

Please call the church office if you are interested in being a Lector or Eucharistic Minister while growing in your faith.

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
**Assumption Memorial Garden Cemetery**

Columbarium Niches for Cremains \$1,600.00 per Niche  
contact parish office (731) 885-0963 Niche Face Plate  
Engraving Compliments of Edmaiston-Mosley Funeral Home (731) 885-1033 Curtis Monument Company (731) 352-5769 & The Wall Family

## Immaculate Conception Parish Staff:

**Office Hours: 9:00am—2:00pm**

Pastor: Fr. Carl Gregorich  
Bookkeeper/Reception: Leticia Maldonado  
*Tuesday & Thursday 9am—2pm*  
Religious Education Director: Teresa Vallee  
Communications/Technology: Lillie Vallee

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays 5pm

Knights of Columbus: 3rd Degree: Mike Morel  
4th Degree: Jason Batchelor  
Ladies Guild: Janell Gegg  
Meal Ministry: Brenda Piazza  
Rosary Prayer Group: *Sundays 7:30am* Lillie Vallee  
Sick Card Ministry: Sue Holnzer 731-335-0502

Flocknote: icuctn.flocknote.com/register

FORMED.org: Sign up as a parishioner & use the church zip code franciscanathome.com  
Catechetical Institute: Sign up under the Memphis Diocese

Facebook: facebook.com/icuctn

Bulletin Deadline: Noon on Monday

*Wishing all of you a Happy and*

**BLESSED**

*December Birthday!*

May your special day be filled with joy, sweet memories, relaxation, and God's blessings.



*The Atlar Candles are for Billy T & Winnie Logan.*

**Altar Linens Month of December: Beverly Canale**  
*Thank you for your service to our parish!*

### Holy Sacraments Offered

**Baptism:** Arrange by appointment three (3) months before the desired date of baptism with the Office.  
**First Eucharist:** Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.  
**Confirmation:** Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.  
**Confession:** Saturdays 3:15pm—3:45pm  
**Matrimony:** Arrangements must be made six (6) months before the wedding date with the Parish Office.  
**Marriage Blessing:** Contact the parish Priest.  
**Marriage Annulment:** Contact the parish Priest.  
**Anointing of the Sick:** Contact the Parish Office.  
**Holy Orders:** Contact the Parish Priest.

### Sagrados Sacramentos Ofrecidos

**Bautismo:** Organizarlo por medio de una cita con la oficina parroquial tres (3) meses antes de la fecha deseada de bautismo.  
**Primera Comunión:** Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.  
**Confirmación:** Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.  
**Confesión:** Sábados 3:15pm—3:45pm  
**Matrimonio:** Los arreglos deben hacerse seis (6) meses antes de la fecha de la boda con la Oficina Parroquial.  
**Bendición Matrimonial:** Comuníquese con el párroco.  
**Anulación de Matrimonio:** Póngase en contacto con el párroco.  
**Unción de los Enfermos:** Comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial.  
**Órdenes Sagradas:** Póngase en contacto con el párroco.



Names on the prayer list for family and friends will be removed on monthly basis. They will not be put back on until requested. Please notify church office to remove or add a person or email: icuctnmaster@gmail.com

<u>Parishioners</u>	<u>Friends &amp; Family</u>	
Lupita Berner	John Akers	Mary Jo Lattus
Richard Burpo	Heather Bacon	Nancy Long
Beverly Canale	Linda Boucher	Brian Maddox
Willis Hayslett	Butch Bugby	Fr. Jim Martell
Terry Johnson	Karen Canale	Josh McKinnis
James Judge	Robert Chmielewski	Linda Moore
Martha Lattus	Joseph Forner	Gabby Moss Family
Pat Martinek	Judy Gainwell	Barbara Parker
Barbara Pituch	Edward & Glenda Griffith	Logan Ricketts
Tom Pituch	Judy Guillory	Terry Roberts
David Sergerson	Mary Harris	Debra Spillers
Marilyn Stigler	Jean Haynes	Teresa Sadler
Del Torro	Geri Hinson	Gary Stephens
Paul Werner, Sr.	Mayci Hogg	Allan Stevens
Katie Young	Frank Hutchinson	Ashley Taylor
	Dave Johnson	Grace Townsend
	Rhonda Jones	Dottie Grace Tibbs
	Steven Kreis	Doris Ann Toon
	Layla Karlz	Doris & Van Veach
		Joe Young

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**ORDINATION of SEVERAL DEACONS**

FELIX PESCE SEMINARIAN      CHRIS FAGIN SEMINARIAN

**JANUARY 3, 2026**

10 AM

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
1695 CENTRAL AVE, MEMPHIS TN 38104

- Monday, December 15: Advent Penance Service @ St. Jude - 6pm  
*Confessions in English & Spanish*
- Lunes 15 de diciembre: Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento en San Judas - 6pm  
*Confesiones en inglés y español*

**Prepare the way for the Lord...**  
*Preparad el camino del Señor*  
Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento  
**Advent Penance Service**



**The Greening of The Church**

We are in need of volunteers to help put up the large Christmas trees & other trees in the church. Please contact the office to let us know you are able to help!

**Date: Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 3pm**  
Confirmation students would be big help to set up the large trees!

Necesitamos voluntarios para ayudar a montar los árboles de Navidad grandes y otros árboles de la iglesia. ¡Por favor, contacten a la oficina para informarnos si pueden ayudar!

Fecha: Martes, 16 de diciembre, 3 pm  
¡Los estudiantes de Confirmación serían de gran ayuda para montar los árboles grandes!



- Monday, December 15: Advent Penance Service @ St. Jude - 6pm  
*Confessions in English & Spanish*
- Tuesday, December 16: Green the church with trees 3pm  
**Volunteers needed**
- Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Masses @ St. Jude - 4pm @ IC - 9pm
- Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Masses @ IC - 8am @ St. Jude - 10am
- Wednesday, December 31: Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass @ St. Jude - 4pm
- Thursday, January 1: Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation Mass @ IC - 10am
- Lunes 15 de diciembre: Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento en San Judas - 6pm  
*Confesiones en inglés y español*
- Martes 16 de diciembre: Decoración de la iglesia con árboles a las 3pm  
**Se necesitan voluntarios**
- Miércoles 24 de diciembre: Misas de Nochebuena en San Judas - 4pm y en IC - 9pm
- Jueves 25 de diciembre: Misas de Navidad en IC - 8am y en San Judas - 10am
- Miércoles 31 de diciembre: Misa de precepto en la parroquia de San Judas, Día de la Santa Virgen María, Madre de Dios, a las 4pm
- Jueves 1 de enero: Misa de precepto en la parroquia de IC, Día de la Santa Virgen María, Madre de Dios, a las 10am

The 2026 Mass Intention book has several openings for your Mass Intentions. There are 3 Mass available each week to add your loved ones. Come by the office to request your dates.

El libro de intenciones de misa de 2026 tiene varias fechas disponibles para sus intenciones de misa. Hay tres misas disponibles cada semana para que añada a sus seres queridos. Visite la oficina para solicitar sus fechas.

*Request a Mass Intention*



- Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Masses @ St. Jude - 4pm @ IC - 9pm
- Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Masses @ IC - 8am @ St. Jude - 10am
- Miércoles 24 de diciembre: Misas de Nochebuena en San Judas - 4pm y en IC - 9pm
- Jueves 25 de diciembre: Misas de Navidad en IC - 8am y en San Judas - 10am

## Advent is a perfect time to ponder

### St. Joseph

by [Michael R. Heinlein](#) December 12, 2023

Since the events surrounding Jesus' birth manifest the crux of our knowledge about St. Joseph in Scripture, the Advent/Christmas cycle is a perfect time to ponder his witness.

Though we do not know many details about him directly from Scripture, much can be inferred about him from what we do know. The litany of St. Joseph is a great place to get to know his characteristics. Among other things, it identifies St. Joseph as "most just."

The justice on display in a figure like St. Joseph is often missing from today's world. He offers a witness upon which we should meditate to learn the ways of God, who was fully alive in him. To live as a man of justice, St. Joseph needed to be a man of faith, hope and charity. Take for instance the situation in which he found himself — betrothed to a young woman pregnant with a child not his own.

The justice of his day would have expected St. Joseph to abandon the young woman. More than that, it would have demanded the young woman be killed. While it's clear he wrestled about what to do, St. Joseph's action was definitive. He moved forward with his plans to welcome Mary into his home.

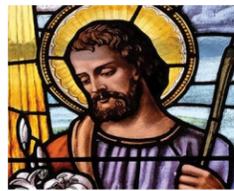
In God's justice, St. Joseph's heart was open to the truth. But this required great faith from him. The reality that Mary was expecting God's own son was something that defied human knowledge and reason. To embrace Mary in this vulnerable state opened up St. Joseph to vulnerability as well.

St. Joseph's faith informed his hope that God would provide for him because he was doing what was right, what was just. He knew it could cost him greatly, and for all we know it might have. That would only make sense according to the Christian logic of obedience and sacrifice. Consider what ramifications could flow from this small-town carpenter's acceptance and protection of a woman most believed was an adulterer.

It was primarily a heart full of love that enabled St. Joseph to endure whatever difficulty might come his way. He loved God above all and wanted to accept his role in God's plan for the salvation of mankind. In love, he laid down his life for his beloved Mary and the divine son she bore.

I often find myself imagining I was in St. Joseph's shoes. So many situations of life present similar circumstances like he faced. The qualities of his life should be those appropriated by anyone who wants to follow Jesus more closely. When life's darkest moments hover around us — akin to the dark days of December's Advent season — we can ask St. Joseph to help us. We can turn to his example for strength to persevere. We should desire and seek to emulate his faith, hope and love. In meditating on the life and witness of St. Joseph we can learn a fundamental truth described by St. Paul: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8: 28).

*Michael R. Heinlein is editor of Simply Catholic. Follow him on twitter [@HeinleinMichael](#).*



## El Adviento es un momento perfecto para reflexionar

### sobre San José

Por Michael R. Heinlein 12 de diciembre de 2023

Dado que los acontecimientos que rodearon el nacimiento de Jesús manifiestan el núcleo de nuestro conocimiento sobre San José en las Escrituras, el ciclo de Adviento/Navidad es un momento perfecto para reflexionar sobre su testimonio.

Aunque no conocemos muchos detalles sobre él directamente de las Escrituras, se puede inferir mucho sobre él a partir de lo que sí sabemos. La letanía de San José es un excelente punto de partida para conocer sus características. Entre otras cosas, identifica a San José como «el más justo».

La justicia que se manifiesta en una figura como San José a menudo está ausente en el mundo actual. Él ofrece un testimonio sobre el cual debemos meditar para aprender los caminos de Dios, que estaba plenamente presente en él.

Para vivir como un hombre de justicia, San José necesitaba ser un hombre de fe, esperanza y caridad. Tomemos, por ejemplo, la situación en la que se encontraba: prometido a una joven embarazada de un hijo que no era suyo.

La justicia de su época habría esperado que San José abandonara a la joven. Más aún, habría exigido que la joven fuera ejecutada. Si bien es evidente que tuvo dudas sobre qué hacer, la acción de San José fue definitiva. Siguió adelante con sus planes de acoger a María en su hogar.

En la justicia de Dios, el corazón de San José estaba abierto a la verdad. Pero esto requirió una gran fe de su parte. La realidad de que María esperaba al propio hijo de Dios era algo que desafiaba el conocimiento y la razón humanos. Aceptar a María en este estado de vulnerabilidad expuso a San José también a la vulnerabilidad.

La fe de San José alimentó su esperanza de que Dios proveería para él porque estaba haciendo lo correcto, lo justo. Sabía que podría costarle mucho, y por lo que sabemos, podría haber sido así. Eso solo tendría sentido según la lógica cristiana de la obediencia y el sacrificio. Consideremos las ramificaciones que podrían derivarse de la aceptación y protección de este carpintero de un pequeño pueblo hacia una mujer que la mayoría creía que era adúltera.

Fue principalmente un corazón lleno de amor lo que permitió a San José soportar cualquier dificultad que se le presentara. Amaba a Dios por encima de todo y quería aceptar su papel en el plan de Dios para la salvación de la humanidad. Por amor, entregó su vida por su amada María y el hijo divino que ella concibió.

A menudo me imagino en el lugar de San José. Muchas situaciones de la vida presentan circunstancias similares a las que él enfrentó. Las cualidades de su vida deberían ser las que adopte cualquiera que desee seguir a Jesús más de cerca. Cuando los momentos más oscuros de la vida nos acechan, al igual que los días sombríos del Adviento en diciembre, podemos pedirle ayuda a San José. Podemos recurrir a su ejemplo para encontrar la fuerza para perseverar.

Debemos desear y buscar emular su fe, esperanza y amor. Al meditar en la vida y el testimonio de San José, podemos aprender una verdad fundamental descrita por San Pablo: «Sabemos que Dios dispone todas las cosas para el bien de quienes lo aman, de quienes han sido llamados según su propósito (Romanos 8:28).

Michael R. Heinlein es editor de Simply Catholic. Síguelo en Twitter [@HeinleinMichael](#).

## Sunday Connection: Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 35:1-6,10:* In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalms 146:6-7,8-9,9-10:* The Lord will save his people.

**Second Reading:** *James 5:7-10:* Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 11:2-11:* Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

LOYOLAPRESS.

## Conexión Dominical: Tercer Domingo de Adviento, Ciclo A

Primera Lectura: Isaías 35:1-6,10: En el día del Señor, cesarán toda tristeza y luto.

Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 146:6-7,8-9,9-10: El Señor salvará a su pueblo.

Segunda Lectura: Santiago 5:7-10: Tengan paciencia y estén preparados; la venida del Señor está cerca.

Lectura del Evangelio: Mateo 11:2-11: Jesús le habla a Juan el Bautista sobre las señales del reino que se están manifestando a través de él y alaba a Juan como más que un profeta.

Contexto de la Lectura del Evangelio

El tercer domingo de Adviento se llama tradicionalmente Domingo de Gaudete. Gaudete es la palabra latina que significa "alégrense". Este domingo recibe este nombre porque "Alégrense" es la primera palabra de la antifona de entrada de la Misa de hoy, tomada de Filipenses 4:4,5: "Alégrense siempre en el Señor; lo repito, ¡alégrense! El Señor está cerca". Algunas personas marcan este domingo en su corona de Adviento con una vela rosa en lugar de una vela morada. Este domingo es un recordatorio gozoso de que nuestra salvación está cerca.

La lectura del Evangelio de esta semana continúa nuestra reflexión de Adviento sobre la persona y el mensaje de Juan el Bautista. La semana pasada escuchamos a Juan hablar sobre su relación con el Mesías que vendría, Jesús. Esta semana, escuchamos el mensaje de Jesús a Juan el Bautista, ahora en prisión, sobre las señales del reino que se encuentran en el ministerio de Jesús y la valoración que Jesús hace del papel de Juan en el Reino de Dios.

El Evangelio de Mateo narra la historia del arresto de Juan en el capítulo 14:3-12. En el Evangelio de hoy, Juan le envía un mensaje a Jesús desde la prisión, preguntándole si Jesús es el Mesías que ha estado esperando. Jesús responde señalando los milagros que ha realizado e invita a Juan y a los demás oyentes a que saquen sus propias conclusiones. Sin embargo, inmediatamente después, Jesús alaba a Juan por su papel en la preparación del camino para Jesús. Luego, Jesús dice que todos los que trabajan para el Reino de Dios serán tan grandes como Juan e incluso mayores. El mensaje de Jesús a Juan sobre las señales del reino que se están manifestando recuerda la salvación descrita por el profeta Isaías. Este pasaje nos recuerda que el comienzo de la salvación ya está misteriosamente presente entre nosotros, pero que aún no se ha consumado. La salvación ya está presente en medio de nosotros, manifestada en las obras milagrosas de Jesús y en la Iglesia. Pero la salvación también se consumará en el reino venidero de Dios. Incluso al observar nuestro mundo hoy, podemos vislumbrar la obra de Dios entre nosotros. Más aún, contribuimos a preparar el camino para el reino de Dios con nuestras palabras y nuestras acciones. Este mensaje es, sin duda, motivo de alegría.