Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School

A Catholic Tradition in the foothills of Los Angeles since 1920

November 29, 2020

Pastor
Fr. Rolly Astudillo
☎818-352-3218 x 103
✉frrolly106@gmail.com

Deacons
Dn. Mar Enriquez
☎818-802-1639
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Dn. Ramon Villasenor
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In Residence
Fr. Jiwan Kim
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Mass Schedule *
Saturday Vigil Mass
6:00 pm (English)
Sunday Mass
8:00 am (Spanish),
Daily Mass
Monday through Friday:
6:00 pm

Parish Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
✉ollenriquezy@gmail.com
☎818-352-3218

Church Location
7315 Apperson St
Tujunga, CA 91042
Office Location
7344 Apperson St
Tujunga, CA 91042

OLL School Office Hours
(Closed)
✉officemanager @olltujunga.org
☎818-353-1106

Adoration*
First Fridays after 6:00 pm Mass

Reconciliation
Saturdays: 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Rosary+
After Daily Mass

Baptism and Marriages
Please call the Parish Office
☎818-352-3218

* Masses held outdoors by grotto
+ Suspended until further notice

1st Sunday of Advent

First Reading:	**Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7**
Second Reading:	**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**
Gospel:	**Mark 13:33-37**

We begin a new liturgical year of the Church with the First Sunday of Advent. It's a curtain raiser focusing our attention on preparation and waiting in hope. From the First Sunday of Advent to December 16, the readings are about the second coming of Jesus in the last days which is not necessarily the end of the world; then from December 17 to the time before the Christmas vigil, the readings will focus on the events immediately following the first Christmas Day. Meanwhile, we open ourselves to Jesus as he comes every day in the events of daily life.

The readings of the first Sunday of Advent from the prophet Isaiah says that God is "father" and "redeemer." As children of the Father, God can always redeem us from our fallen nature for as the prophet says: "Yet, O lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands."

Today's gospel tells us that the "redeemer" comes, but one has to be vigilant to be able to receive his salvation. One who sleeps will remain a slave of sin, and not to be ransomed.

Paul addresses the Christians of Corinth in the second reading, assuring them of God's faithfulness in Jesus Christ who will keep them firm until the Lord Jesus comes again.

Many of us have gone through experiences where we need some form of redemption, where we need to be rescued or ransomed. We can benefit from this invitation of redemption or ransom only if we open ourselves to receive it. But most often, we escape from situations where we need redemption. Hence, Jesus tells us, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come . . . . What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" Then Jesus gives us the example of a servant who does not know "when the master of the house will come – in the evening or at midnight or at dawn."

Advent is the Church's liturgical season calling for vigilance yet brimming with hope! Hope is a virtue that is elusive as we live in a world that seems to be at times devoid of genuine hope during these depressing and difficult times: loneliness and isolation, loss of jobs, the rise in cases of domestic violence, the racial divide, a nation in discord, and many more.

To be vigilant is to be hopeful and as "missionaries of hope", we start from a profound acceptance of life's realities and people's growing anxieties. We don't escape from them. Our vigilance has nothing to do with some people who predict the end of the world and wait for it in fear. We deal with people's fears and frustrations with Christian hope. As "missionaries of hope, we manifest our oneness with those who are having a hard time during these difficult times and those in the peripheries of society through consoling words and concrete actions.

The Lord wants us to be active, that is, to be watchful and alert. To be active and alert means "to be in charge" – the man in the gospel places his servants in charge of his home and orders the gate keeper to be on the watch. To be watchful and alert is to take control of our lives, to be responsible for our actions and to decide for ourselves and for the good of all.

We all have different roles to play (as a minister, as a parent, a teacher, a spouse, a laborer) for God has blessed us with gifts that are unique and in varying degrees which can make us great, not in comparison with one another but just by being the radiantly beautiful person God has meant us to be. We just need to be watchful and alert of the talents God has given to us as gifts to be broken and shared.

Vigilance is needed not only in avoiding evil but in doing good. The servant is expected to be working while the master is still away. Vigilance says that tomorrow might be too late. Our daily work, activities and responsibilities are ways to holiness.

Let us then start the Advent Season and the Church's New Liturgical Year by fixing our hearts and minds on God as we live in faith, hope and love. And let us be with the Blessed Mother, Our lady of Lourdes, who gives us the message of God loving us as we are, not only with all our successes but with all our wounds, our weaknesses and our limitations. ❖

Cast into the Deep (November 29)
Getting to Know Blessed Carlo Acutis
Nelle Orsburn

As we close the month of November, we recall that we started the month remembering and honoring the Saints in Heaven and the Souls in Purgatory. It seems appropriate then to turn the spotlight on a teenager who was beatified last month by Pope Francis, on October 10.

When I first heard of Carlo Acutis, I learned that he passed away at the age of 15, he was to be beatified and that he was best known for having documented all the Eucharistic Miracles online. I must have heard the same story two or three times. To tell you the truth, I wondered how documenting the Miracles online was enough to be a Saint. After all, I learned in school that to be a saint meant that either one died a martyr's death, dying for the faith, or one had lived a life of heroic virtue, i.e., an exemplary life of goodness and virtue worthy of imitation. A few weeks ago, I happened to attend a webinar highlighting the life of Bl. Carlo Acutis and I started to understand the exemplary life he had managed to cram into his short life and it led me on a quest to know more about him.

Bl. Carlo was born on May 3, 1991 and lived a normal life as a child growing up in Milan and later attending high School at the Jesuit-run Leo XIII High School in 2005. He was well liked by his peers, playing sports with them, enjoying lighthearted moments with them, and engaging in deep discussions with them. He liked to cook, to play with his menagerie of 4 dogs and 2 cats, watch detective shows and quiz shows on TV and play his saxophone. He was not by any means an outstanding student, but he did well in his studies. In a special way, he had a passion for Math and Computers. In fact his friends who were studying Computer Science in the University considered him a genius. He was into computer programming, film editing and website creation.

What set him apart was not what he did in life but how he lived his life.

From an early age, from the time he received his First Communion at age 7, Bl. Carlo never missed Daily Mass, Daily Communion and Daily Rosary. He would also visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament even if only briefly before or after Mass. He had a special love for the Eucharist. ***"The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven."*** He would find a way to get to church, dragging his parents and relatives. And though his parents were not devout Catholics, with his persistence and example, they too have experienced a conversion to a more devout Christian life. Because of his love for the Eucharist, he wanted others to come to the Eucharist and experience the same joy. Using the internet to this end, he created a website to collect and document the Eucharistic miracles which became the basis of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, an international exhibition which highlights such occurrences (http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/index.html). He eventually, compiled the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for whom he also had a special devotion. He believed that "…the miracles performed by the Virgin Mary during her appearances on earth can be helpful in increasing faith of many people." (http://www.themarianapparitions.org/en/avm/)

According to Bl. Carlo, ***"A life is truly beautiful only if we come to love God above all, and our neighbor as ourselves."*** And what a witness he was to a beautiful life. His every action was a gift of love, believing that ***"… The higher [our love] will be, the more we will enjoy the Eternal Bliss of God."*** His mom, Antonia, described him as a serene and cheerful child with a ready smile for everyone. She further noted that he used his talents at the service of his "neighbors". His generosity extended to all he encountered, the immigrants, the disabled, to children, to the old, to beggars. Shortly before he died, he offered his sufferings for the Pope and for the Church.

At just 15 years of age, Bl. Carlo was diagnosed with Leukemia and it was a short illness. In just about week, he succumbed to the illness when he experienced a cerebral hemorrhage. But he was ready. His life plan was to be with Jesus. ***"Our Goal must be the Infinite, not the finite."*** He had lived his life fully. And at the center of that life was Jesus. This allowed him to live intensely every moment, without wasting even a single moment. In this way, he accorded proper value to the gifts that God had given him but above all to everyone he encountered and in whom he left an indelible mark. Even through his illness, he never lost his smile and when the doctor asked him if he was in great pain, he responded: ***"There are people who are suffering more than I am***."

Bl. Carlo Acutis is the first millennial Blessed and is a role model for the youth. But wouldn't it be great if all us could say as he did, ***"I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God."***

Calendar of Events

All Masses and sacraments will be celebrated outside the church by the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes (see p.4)

- Weekdays: 6:00 pm
- Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm (English)
- Sunday 8:00 am (Spanish)

- Sunday Masses will continue to be live streamed.

https://www.facebook.com/106570891120663/live/

- **In case of rain,** the altar will be moved to the covered patio. In-person mass attendees may stay in their cars or under umbrellas.
- Reconciliation will be available on Saturdays at 4:45 pm to 5:45 pm on the hospitality patio or by appointment
- All face-to-face ministry meetings, prayer group meetings and other gatherings are still suspended.
- Refer to the website for the most up-to-date information: www.ollchurch.us
- **The Parish Office is open only for essentials.**

Road to Centennial News

Portrait Sessions are Back!

If you didn't have a chance to have your personal or family portrait taken for the Commemorative Book, we have 2 new ways to take your picture for this special historical keepsake. Choose a location:

Front Steps of OLL Church or the Grotto*	On your own front porch*
Safely meet with one of our professional, volunteer photographers on the church grounds to take your photo.	One of our professional, volunteer photographers will be happy to travel to your home and take your personal or family photo on your front porch or yard.

**For safety, please practice all social distancing protocols and wear a mask when you're not posed for the actual picture taking.*

Visit www.ollcentennial.com for details and to signup for a November or December portrait sitting.
. Questions?: Eloisa de Guzman: eloie@ca.rr.com

All other questions: Giovanna Dottore — DanceItUp127@gmail.com

**Book available in late 2021*

Centennial Celebrations

OLL plans to prepare a time capsule as one of our Centennial year activities. What do you think should be included in it? Some early suggestions include: a face

mask; The Centennial Mass (once we have it) program/ Worship Aid; Photos; The Commemorative Book ….. What do YOU think. Send us your ideas.
ollpfwdc@gmail.com

Thank you NEW ad purchasers!

Dorla Marquis
Darcy Yates

Want to purchase an ad or become a sponsor? Contact:
Anita Dominquez —
anitamarie.dominguez@gmail.com

Parish News

Reminder: Schedule and Protocol For Outdoor Masses

We continue to celebrate **Mass** outdoors. Note the **schedule:**

Weekday Masses (Monday to Friday): 6:00 P.M.
Sunday Masses: Two Masses Only
English Mass: Saturday at 6:00 P.M.
Spanish Mass: Sunday at 8:00 A.M.

Both Sunday Masses will be live streamed. The Link to the live streamed Masses is:

https://www.facebook.com/106570891120663/live/

Of course, we must still **follow all the protocols** as when we had Masses inside:

- **It is a must to wear a mask** while on the Church grounds.
- **Sanitize your hands** before joining the congregation
- **Maintain social distance** (6 ft apart)
- **If you are sick or unable to wear a mask,** please stay home.

In Case of Pouring Rain

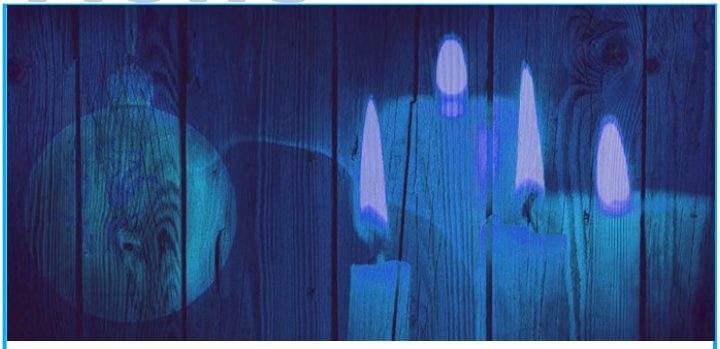
- The Altar will be located at the Hospitality Patio
- For those who want to attend Mass under their umbrellas, space below the Hospitality Patio will be reserved for them.
- For those attending Mass in their cars, parking spaces will be designated for them and Drive Thru Holy Communion will be available at the end of the Mass.

Please park your cars along Apperson Street or in the OLL School Upper Parking Lot. The upper parking lot of the Church is only for in-person participation. There are four (4) spaces reserved for cars with the Disabled Parking Permits. The lower parking lot by the Auditorium are for those who would like to attend mass **in their cars**. The exit road towards Tujunga Canyon Blvd. is closed.

Drive-Thru Holy Communion by the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes will be available at 8:45 A.M. right after the 8:00 A.M. Spanish Mass on Sundays.

Offertory Baskets will be placed in different areas of our outdoor place of worship. Another option is to give online (ollchurch.us, click on "Give"). You may also bring your gift or mail it to the parish office. **Thank you for your generosity.** ❖

Our Musicians: Spanish Mass and English Mass



Advent:
What are we waiting for anyways?

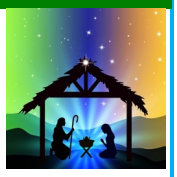
The two principal figures of Advent are John the Baptist and Mary of Nazareth. What does their presence in the Advent story have to do with us today in the 21st century? What can we learn from them? This evangelization retreat will focus on experiencing these lessons.

Come to our OLL Centennial Advent Retreat

When: Saturday, December 5th
Time: 1:30 – 4:30 pm
Virtual retreat via Zoom
Featured Speaker: Fr. Jim Clarke

Registration Required: Email OLLPFWDC@gmail.com to receive the registration link or visit www.ollchurch.us.

Christmas Basket



Please consider donating to our Christmas Basket program and help our community in need to celebrate Christmas with food baskets and presents for their children.
Three ways to help:

- Donate items for the Christmas Baskets (suggestions in last Sunday's bulletin)
- You may also choose to donate a gift from our OLL Holiday Registry. visit Target.com, select "Registry" in the menu bar, and search OLL in the "first name" box and Christmas Baskets in the "last name"
- You may also donate money or gift cards to purchase food for the gift baskets. Make checks out to Our Lady of Lourdes with Christmas Baskets written in the "For" line.

Donations due at the Parish Office by Friday, December 11.

From Scripture to Life

Check out our new bulletin feature "From Scripture to Life " on p.5 (English) and p. 6 (Spanish). We invite you to reflect on the Word and put it into practice in daily living.

Court San Ysidro #1507
Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Thank you for supporting the Catholic Daughters' fundraisers that are so timely for the holidays!!

Join the See's Candies Sweet List

Catholic Daughters is doing a See's Candy fund raiser. The website below is where you can go to order directly. You pay at the time of purchase and the candy will be delivered to you directly. If you are not computer savvy you can call Debbie Felkel or Nancy Allen and they will take your order. The sale is currently in full swing and will end on December 4, 2020. So hurry up and get your orders in.

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/catholicdoa_catholic_daughters65/candy?h=kel_tho9934

Almost Endless Bakeless Bake Sale.

Picture your favorite cake, pie, cookies, brownies...delicious!! How much would you spend to create these yummy treats? Instead of heating up your oven, donate to the Catholic Daughter Almost Endless Bakeless Bake Sale.

BONUS! Each donation is an opportunity to win a sweet treat surprise! So be sure to include your name and phone # and we will enter your in the November 30 and December 31 drawings.

Cash and check donations may be dropped off or mailed to the Parish Office or dropped in the yellow basket here at Mass. All proceeds will support our local and national charities.

Imagínate tu pastel favorito, pie, galletas, brownies... ¡¡Delicioso!! ¿Cuánto gastarías para crear estas deliciosas golosinas? En lugar de calentar el horno, dona a la hija católica Almost Endless Bakeless Bake Sale.

¡Bono! ¡Cada donación es una oportunidad para ganar una dulce sorpresa! Así que asegúrese de incluir su nombre y teléfono y vamos a introducir su en los dibujos del 30 de noviembre y el 31 de diciembre.

Las donaciones de efectivo y cheques pueden ser dejadas o enviadas por correo a la Oficina Parroquial o dejadas en la canasta amarilla aquí en la misa. Todos los ingresos apoyarán a nuestras organizaciones benéficas locales y nacionales.

From scripture to life…
How can the season of Advent help you to be more mindful in your actions ?

Mass Intentions

November 28 thru December 04, 2020

Saturday November 28 6:00 pm
Deceased Members of the Legionof Mary
Modesta Velasco †
Anthony Menjares †
Maria Dinh †

Sunday November 29 8:00 am
Silvia Toledo Macias †

Monday November 30 6:00 pm
Maria Dinh †
Andrea Mata—*Birthday Blessings*

Tuesday December 01 6:00 pm
Maria Dinh †
Lito Limgenco—*Birthday Thanksgiving*

Wednesday December 02 6:00 pm
Gen Scapaticci †
Maria Dinh †
Marco—*Safe Traveling*

Thursday December 03 6 pm
Maria Dinh †

Friday December 04 6:00 pm
Arnie Beezer S.J. †
Maria Dinh †

"...we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands."

Is 64:7

Readings for November 30 to December 6, 2020

Mon 30	Rom 10: 9-18/ Ps 19: 8. 9. 10. 11/ Mt 4: 18-22
Tue 1	Is 11: 1-10/ Ps 72: 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17/ Lk 10: 21-24
Wed 2	Is 25: 6-10a/ Ps 23:1-3a. 3b-4.5.6./ Mt 15:29-37
Thu 3	Is 26: 1-6/ Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21. 25-27a/ Mt 7: 21. 24-27
Fri 4	Is 29: 17-24/ Ps 27: 1. 4. 13-14/ Mt 9: 27-31
Sat 5	Is 30: 19-21. 23-26/ Ps 147: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/ Mt 9: 35 10: 1. 5a. 6-8
Sun 6	Is 40: 1-5. 9-11/ Ps 85: 9-10. 11-12. 13-14 (8)/ 2 Pt 3: 8-14/ Mk 1: 1-8

en Nuestra Parroquia

Recordatorio: calendario y protocolo Para misas al aire libre

Seguimos celebrando la misa al aire libre. l horario de las Misas es el siguiente:

Misas de lunes a viernes (de lunes a viernes): 6:00 p.m.
(No hay misas de la mañana)
Misas dominicales: solo dos misas
Misa en inglés: sábado a las 6:00 p.m.
Misa en español: domingo a las 8:00 a.m.

Ambas misas dominicales se transmitirán en vivo. El Enlace a las Misas transmitidas en vivo es:

https://www.facebook.com/106570891120663/live/

Por supuesto, debemos seguir todos los protocolos como cuando teníamos misas adentro:

- Es imprescindible **usar una máscara** mientras esté en los terrenos de la Iglesia. Asegúrese de que su máscara cubra tanto *la nariz como la boca.*
- ***Desinfecta tus manos*** *antes de unirte a la congregación*
- ***Mantenga la distancia social*** *(a 6 pies de distancia) a menos que pertenezca al mismo hogar*
- ***Si está enfermo o no puede usar una máscara****, quédese en casa.*

Por favor, estacione sus autos a lo largo de la calle Apperson o en el estacionamiento superior de la escuela OLL.. El estacionamiento superior de la Iglesia es solo para participación en persona. Hay 4 espacios reservados para automóviles con permiso de estacionamiento para discapacitados. El estacionamiento inferior del Auditorio es para aquellos que quieran asistir a misa en sus autos. La salida hacia Tujunga Canyon Blvd. está cerrado.

Comunión en el auto por la Gruta afuera estará disponible a las 8:45 a.m. después de la misa de las 8:00 a.m. Misa en español los domingos. Lo alentamos a que nos acompanes en las misas transmitidas en vivo en inglés y español antes de hacer uso de la Santa Comunión.

Las cestas del ofertorio se colocarán en diferentes áreas de nuestro lugar de culto al aire libre. Otra opción es dar en línea (ollchurch.us, haga clic en "Give"). También puede traer su ofrenda o enviarla por correo a la oficina parroquial. **Gracias por tu generosidad**. ❖

Christmas Basket

Por favor considere donar a nuestro programa Christmas Basket y ayude a nuestra comunidad necesitada a celebrar la Navidad con canastas de comida y regalos para sus hijos.

Tres formas de ayudar:

- Done artículos para las cestas navideñas.
- También puede optar por donar un regalo de nuestro Registro de vacaciones de OLL. visite Target.com, seleccione "Registro" en la barra de menú, y busque OLL en el cuadro "nombre" y Cestas de Navidad en el "apellido"
- También puede donar dinero o tarjetas de regalo para comprar alimentos para las canastas de regalo.

Las donaciones deben entregarse en la oficina parroquial antes del viernes 11 de diciembre.

Noticias del Centenario

¡Las sesiones de retratos están de vuelta!

Si no tuviste la oportunidad de tomar tu retrato personal o familiar para el Libro Conmemorativo, tenemos 2 nuevas maneras de tomar tu foto para este recuerdo histórico especial. Elija una ubicación:

Pasos delanteros de la Iglesia OLL o de la Gruta*	En tu propio porche delantero*
Reúnase de forma segura con uno de nuestros fotógrafos profesionales y voluntarios en los terrenos de la iglesia para tomar su foto.	Uno de nuestros fotógrafos profesionales y voluntarios estará encantado de viajar a su casa y llevar su foto personal o familiar en su porche o patio delantero
**Por seguridad, practique todos los protocolos de distanciamiento social y use una máscara cuando no esté posado para la toma de fotos real.*	

Visita www.ollcentennial.com para obtener más información y para inscribirte en una sesión de retratos de noviembre o diciembre.

¿Preguntas?: Eloisa de Guzman: eloie@ca.rr.com

Todas las demás preguntas: Giovanna Dottore — DanceItUp127@gmail.com

**Libro disponible a finales de 2021*

"...nosotros somos el barro y tú el alfarero; todos somos hechura de tus manos."

Is 64:7

Join the See's Candies Sweet List

Catholic Daughters está haciendo una recaudación de fondos para See's Candy hasta 4 de diciembre. El sitio web a p.5 es donde puede realizar pedidos directamente. Usted paga en el momento de la compra y los dulces se le entregarán directamente. Si no tiene conocimientos de informática, puede llamar a Debbie Felkel o Nancy Allen y ellos tomarán su pedido. Así que apúrate y haz tus pedidos.

De las escrituras a la vida **…¿Cómo puede la temporada de Adviento ayudarlo a ser más consciente en sus acciones?**

I Domingo De Adviento
Primera Lectura: Isaías 63, 16b-17. 19b; 64, 2b-7
Segunda Lectura: 1 Corintios 1, 3-9
Evangelio: San Marcos 13, 33-37

Comenzamos un nuevo año litúrgico de la Iglesia con el Primer Domingo de Adviento. Es un acto de apertura que enfoca nuestra atención, preparación y espera con esperanza. Desde el Primer Domingo de Adviento hasta el 16 de diciembre, las lecturas son sobre la segunda venida de Jesús en los últimos días que no es necesariamente el fin del mundo; después, desde el 17 de diciembre hasta la vigilia de Navidad, las lecturas se centran en los eventos inmediatamente posteriores al primer día de Navidad. Mientras tanto, nos abrimos a Jesús pues él viene todos los días en los eventos de la vida diaria.

La lectura del primer domingo de Adviento del profeta Isaías dice que Dios es "Padre" y "Redentor". Como hijos del Padre, Dios nos puede redimir de nuestra naturaleza pecadora como dice el profeta: "Y, sin embargo, Oh Señor, tú eres nuestro Padre, nosotros somos el barro y tú eres el alfarero, todos nosotros fuimos hechos por tus manos".

El evangelio de hoy nos dice que viene el "redentor", pero hay que estar alerta para recibir la salvación. El que duerma seguirá siendo esclavo del pecado y no será rescatado.

San Pablo se dirige a los cristianos de Corinto en la segunda lectura, asegurándoles la fidelidad de Dios en Jesucristo quien los mantendrá firmes hasta que el Señor Jesús regrese.

Muchos de nosotros hemos pasado por experiencias donde necesitamos alguna forma de redención, necesitamos ser rescatados o redimidos. Podemos beneficiarnos de esta invitación de redención o rescate sólo si abrimos nuestro corazón para recibirlo. Pero la mayoría de las veces escapamos de situaciones en las que necesitamos redención. Por lo tanto, Jesús nos dice, "Estén preparados y vigilando, ya que no saben cuál será el momento . . . . Lo que les digo a ustedes, se lo digo a todos: estén despiertos". Entonces, Jesús nos da el ejemplo de un sirviente que no sabe "cuándo vendrá el dueño de la casa – al atardecer, a medianoche o al amanecer".

El Adviento es el tiempo litúrgico de la Iglesia que llama a la vigilancia, ¡pero reboza de esperanza! La esperanza es una virtud esquiva ya que vivimos en un mundo que a veces parece carecer de esperanza genuina durante estos tiempos deprimentes y difíciles: la soledad y el aislamiento, la pérdida de empleos, el aumento en casos de violencia doméstica, la división racial, una nación en discordia, y mucho más.

Estar alerta es tener esperanza y como "misioneros de la esperanza", partimos de una profunda aceptación de las realidades de la vida y de la creciente ansiedad de las personas. No escapamos de ello. Nuestra vigilancia no tiene nada que ver con algunas personas que predicen el fin del mundo y lo esperan con miedo. Tratamos los miedos y frustraciones de la gente con esperanza cristiana. Como "misioneros de la esperanza", manifestamos nuestra unidad con los que la están pasando mal durante estos tiempos difíciles y con los de la periferia de la sociedad a través de palabras de consuelo y acciones concretas.

El Señor quiere que seamos activos, es decir, que estemos atentos y alertas. Actuar de forma activa y alerta significa "estar a cargo de" – el hombre en el evangelio pone a sus sirvientes a cargo de su casa y ordena al portero que esté alerta. Estar atentos y alertas es tomar control de nuestras vidas, ser responsables de nuestras acciones y decidir por nosotros mismos y por el bien de todos.

Todos tenemos diferentes oficios que desempeñar (como ministros, como padres de familia, como maestros, como esposos, como trabajadores) porque Dios nos ha bendecido con dones que son únicos y que varían en grados lo que nos hace grandes, no en comparación con los demás, pero siendo las personas radiantemente hermosas que Dios ha querido que seamos. Necesitamos estar atentos y alertas de los talentos que Dios nos ha dado para que esos dones sean quebrantados y compartidos.

Es necesario que estemos alertas no sólo para evitar el mal sino también para hacer el bien. El siervo debe trabajar mientras el amo no está. La vigilancia nos dice que mañana puede ser demasiado tarde. Nuestro trabajo diario, actividades y responsabilidades son caminos hacia la santidad.

Entonces comencemos la temporada de Adviento y el nuevo Calendario Litúrgico de la Iglesia fijando nuestros corazones y mentes en Dios mientras vivimos en fe, esperanza y amor. Y unámonos con nuestra bendita madre, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, que nos da el mensaje de Dios amándonos como somos, no sólo con todos nuestros éxitos sino con todas nuestras heridas, nuestras debilidades y limitaciones.

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