

1st Sunday of Advent Year A
11/30/25

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

Overheard at a small gathering of "seasoned members" of a 70-year-old parish: *We use to have parties, and dances-you know: Valentines Day, New Years Eve, maybe a polka party in the fall/I-what ever happened to those gatherings?* And immediately a response: *We know: the party planners have "aged-out," the tastes of a new generation have replaced square dancing with line dancing. And now a dance I don't really get*

Styles change. "Our music" changes from one generation to the next with a shorter and shorter time from one generation to the next. And, frankly, in a parish like ours-in a Catholic parish that gets its pastor according to the best wisdom of the Bishop and the limited pool of priests to choose from, in a Catholic diocese that gets its bishop from the Pope-who knows what we'll see five or ten years from now?

So, we should live *today* as if it were the only day (because it sort of *is*); and at the same time, we must keep a remembering eye on those who have given us what we have here, and a hopeful eye on what's ahead, even if our vision in either direction is limited, blurry.

A new Church year begins with the season of **Advent** and today is the first day of it. Advent, itself, has us looking *back* at the wonders God has done from the Creation until now (leading us up to the celebration of the coming-among-us of our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas) and *ahead* to the Day of Eternity, the Day of Life and Peace and Joy that the *Second Coming* of Jesus will inaugurate.

Why is today's Gospel focused on "the end of time"? Because, for Eternity to break out, time must be done. Time-with its unknowns and insecurities. Time-with its wars and sicknesses and sin-is passing away. The Day of the Lord will break out "at an hour [we] do not expect." So Jesus would have us know we should not be worried, but we should live like we know that all that is material is unreliable, but his teaching and promises will surely be reliable.

We hope our Advent will be good for us all.

Msgr. Mike with Fr. Albert

