



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY December 1 & BEYOND

END and BEGINNING



It seems a bit frightening to start the new Christian year with a Gospel reading that tells us about the end of times, the end of the world, the end of everything we know. And the signs that Jesus tells his disciples are uncertain. There is no way to know the time. So hard for us who are so used to have everything under control.

The fact is that there can be no new beginning without an end. The old things, the well-known cherished things, must come to an end so that

something new can start taking place. And it is certainly hard to let go and move on.

Most of us look back to the years of our childhood, adolescence or youth as “the good old days”. In many cases we have idealized these days, and forgotten the hard times we went through even at those ages. We tend to forget that those times that we think of as better compared to the present were also shared with an older generation that looked back at an even older time as their “good old days”. And so will it be in every different generation.

Our church is now experiencing a transition. Father Eaton has just ended his abundantly fruitful interim period and this new priest has just started ministering here. It is a wonderful coincidence that my start here happens right at the beginning of the new Christian year, and probably as frightening as the Gospel reading! I do hope that this END-BEGINNING takes place a little more smoothly than what the Gospel depicts. But there will be uncertainty. And some degree of confusion too. With God’s, help, a lot of prayer from both you and me, and with your graceful cooperation, things will eventually start to fall back in place. And there will be new beginnings too.

After all, isn’t this what life is all about? We live in an everlasting Advent. We are always a bit weary of changes, but hoping and expecting new things and times to come. Always a little like the preceding ones, and different and new too.

New does not necessarily mean better, but when it comes to Jesus’ promise of a New Earth and a New Heaven, we can be absolutely assured that what is coming is so wonderfully

beyond our human grasp that no words will ever do it any justice. Does it really matter if we do not know the time? Let us simply think and act in this world as if the time were always now.

MARANATHA! COME LORD JESUS! Amen.

Fr, Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 24:37-44

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The First Sunday of Advent

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

9:30am Special Coffee Hour in honor of our new rector, Fr. Carlos Expósito

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

Noon Special Luncheon in honor of our new rector, Fr. Carlos Expósito

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

THURSDAY 9:30a Journeying the Way of Love: Advent Curriculum (Library)

FRIDAY AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY Societies of Mary Day of Devotion

11:00a Rosary (St. Mary Chapel)

11:30a Mass (St. Mary Chapel)

Noon Potluck Luncheon (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The First Sunday of Advent

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)