

Notes from the Liturgist

The Beauty of WAITING

Waiting is not our forte but the Season of Advent teaches us how to appreciate the beauty of waiting. We are a few days away from Christmas. I remember when I was growing up, I could not **wait** to see all the presents under the tree on Christmas early morning. There was **joy** and **excitement** that superimposed the feelings of that morning especially when we gathered around the tree to open our gifts. I was so excited to find out if I got what I wanted ... mostly I did not receive what I wanted but it was always a gift that surprised me.

Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant **waiting** and **preparation** for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.

Waiting is one of the expressions of the Season of Advent. We wait for the coming of someone who is the biggest gift in our lives. We easily get bored while waiting. We are very eager to get what we expected and sometimes we don't have the patience to wait. While we are waiting for Christmas, it is nice to make ourselves busy. Let's prepare for something. Let us wrap a gift for that someone who is coming. Wrap your heart with **excitement, joy, peace, and full of colors**, then put it under your tree so that, when he comes, your gift will be ready and I'm sure you will receive a big surprise in return.

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the readings of Mass on the Sundays of Advent have distinct themes:

- 1. On the First Sunday (Advent Sunday), they look forward to the Second Coming of Christ.**
- 2. On the Second Sunday, the Gospel reading recalls the preaching of John the Baptist, who came to "prepare the way of the Lord"; the other readings have associated themes.**
- 3. On the Third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday), the Gospel reading is again about John the Baptist, the other readings about the joy associated with the coming of the Savior.**
- 4. On the Fourth Sunday, the Gospel reading is about the events involving Mary and Joseph that led directly to the birth of Jesus, while the other readings are related to these.**

My dear friends, let us appreciate the beauty of waiting for the coming of the Lord. Let us make ourselves ready because when he comes I'm sure we will be busy being with Him.

– ACE TUPASI