

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023/24

First formation session for
Parents

29th November 2023

MATTHEW 7:21-28

True and False Disciples

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

THE BIBLE

ROOTS OF THE TERM *BIBLE*

- BIBLOS (βίβλος)
- Long before paper came into existence, the Egyptians devised a way to create a sort of early version of paper called *papyrus*. In fact, our word for *paper* actually comes from *papyrus*
- Gr. biblos: (the inner) bark (of a papyrus plant), hence a scroll, spec. a book
- Perhaps from *Byblos*, the Phoenician port from which Egyptian papyrus was exported to Greece

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

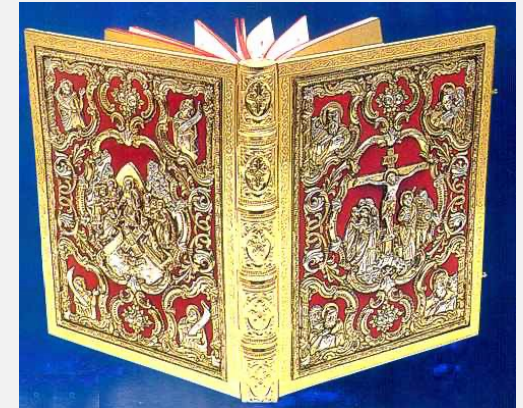
In order to reveal himself to men
God speaks to them in human words
(CCC 101)
(reveal = to make known)

IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

- Ignorance of Scripture is **ignorance of Christ** (St. Jerome, IV/V century)

(ignorance = lack of knowledge, understanding, or information about something)

- The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body (CCC 103)
- In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her **nourishment** and her **strength**, for she welcomes it not as a human word, "but as what it really is, the word of God". "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to **meet his children and talks with them.**" (CCC 104)



THE BIBLE – BASIC INFORMATION

- At first glance it seems to be a 'normal', ordinary book like any other
- The Book of **salvation** (not a geography or history textbook)
([a way of] being saved/rescued from danger, loss, or harm)
- 2 testaments – old & new (testament = **covenant**)
(a formal agreement or promise between two or more people)

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

God is the author of Sacred Scripture. The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

(CCC 105)

God inspired the human authors of the sacred books(...)

(CCC 106)

BASIC INFORMATION - CONTINUED

- Languages: hebrew, arameic & greek
- Structure: books, chapters, verses
(example - Isaiah 3:2-8)
- Writing Styles:



Law, History, Wisdom, Poetry, Prophecy, gospels, epistles and
Apocalyptic Literature

THE CATHOLIC CANON OF THE BIBLE

It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books.

[Council of Trent, Decree on Scriptural Canons].

This complete list is called the canon of Scripture. It includes 46 books for the Old Testament (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) and 27 for the New.

(CCC 120)

THE UNITY OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Christians read the Old Testament in the light of Christ crucified and risen. Such typological reading discloses the inexhaustible content of the Old Testament; but it must not make us forget that the Old Testament retains its own intrinsic value as Revelation reaffirmed by our Lord himself. Besides, the New Testament has to be read in the light of the Old. Early Christian catechesis made constant use of the Old Testament. As an old saying put it,

the New Testament lies hidden in the Old
and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.

(CCC 129)

THE OLD TESTAMENT

- The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked. (CCC 121)
- Christians venerate the Old Testament as the true Word of God. The Church has always vigorously opposed the idea of rejecting the Old Testament under the pretext that the New has rendered it void (Marcionism). (CCC 123)

SECTIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

46 BOOKS

- Pentateuch (torah) – 5 books
- Historical books – 16 books
- Wisdom books – 7 books
- Prophets (major & minor) – 18 books

PENTATEUCH (TORAH)

Pentateuch = penta (five)+teuchos (scroll) (greek)

1. Genesis (Gn)
2. Exodus (Ex)
3. Leviticus (Lv)
4. Numbers (Nb)
5. Deuteronomy (Dt)

HISTORICAL BOOKS (16)

The book of Joshua (jos)

The book of judges (jg)

The book of ruth (rt)

The books of Samuel (1,2 S)

The books of kings (1,2 K)

The books of chronicles (1,2 Ch)

The book of ezra (Ezr)

The book of nehemiah (Ne)

Tobit (Tb)

Judith (Jdt)

Esther (Est)

The books of Maccabees
(1,2 M)

WISDOM BOOKS (7)

1. Job (Jb)
2. The Psalms (Ps)
3. The Proverbs (Pr)
4. Ecclesiastes /Qoheleth (Ecc)
5. The song of songs (Sg)
6. The book of wisdom (Ws)
7. Ecclesiasticus/ben sira (Si)

PROPHETS (18)

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Isaiah (Is) | 7. Hosea (Hos) | 13. Nahum (Na) |
| 2. Jeremiah (Jr) | 8. Amos (Am) | 14. Habakkuk (Hab) |
| 3. Lamentations (Lm) | 9. Joel (Jl) | 15. Zephaniah (Zp) |
| 4. Baruch (Ba) | 10. Obadiah (Ob) | 16. Haggai (Hg) |
| 5. Ezekiel (Ez) | 11. Jonah (Jon) | 17. Zechariah (Zc) |
| 6. Daniel (Dn) | 12. Micah (Mi) | 18. Malachi (Ml) |

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Catholic

OLD TESTAMENT - 46 Books

LAW (PENTATEUCH)-5

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

WISDOM BOOKS - 7

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SONGS
WISDOM
SIRACH

PROPHETIC BOOKS - 18

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
BARUCH
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

HISTORICAL BOOKS -16

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
TOBIT
JUDITH
ESTHER
1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES

NEW TESTAMENT - 27 Books

GOSPELS-4

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN

PAUL'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS - 4

1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

HISTORY - 1

ACTS

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS

GENERAL LETTERS - 8

HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE

APOCALYPTIC BOOK-1

REVELATION

Judith

Tobit

Baruch

Wisdom

Sirach

1 Macc

2 Macc

SACRED SCRIPTURE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

- CCC 131

“And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigour, and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life.” Hence “access to Sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful.”

- 132 “Therefore, the study of the sacred page should be the very soul of sacred theology. the ministry of the Word, too - pastoral preaching, catechetics and all forms of Christian instruction, among which the liturgical homily should hold pride of place - is healthily nourished and thrives in holiness through the Word of Scripture.”
- 133 The Church forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful... to learn the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.

DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION ON DIVINE REVELATION DEI VERBUM SOLEMNLY PROMULGATED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI ON NOVEMBER 18, 1965

PREFACE

I. Hearing the word of God with reverence and proclaiming it with faith, the sacred synod takes its direction from these words of St. John: “We announce to you the eternal life which dwelt with the Father and was **made visible to us**. What we have seen and heard we announce to you, so that you may have fellowship with us and our common fellowship be with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:2-3). Therefore, following in the footsteps of the Council of Trent and of the First Vatican Council, this present council wishes to set forth authentic doctrine on divine revelation and how it is handed on,

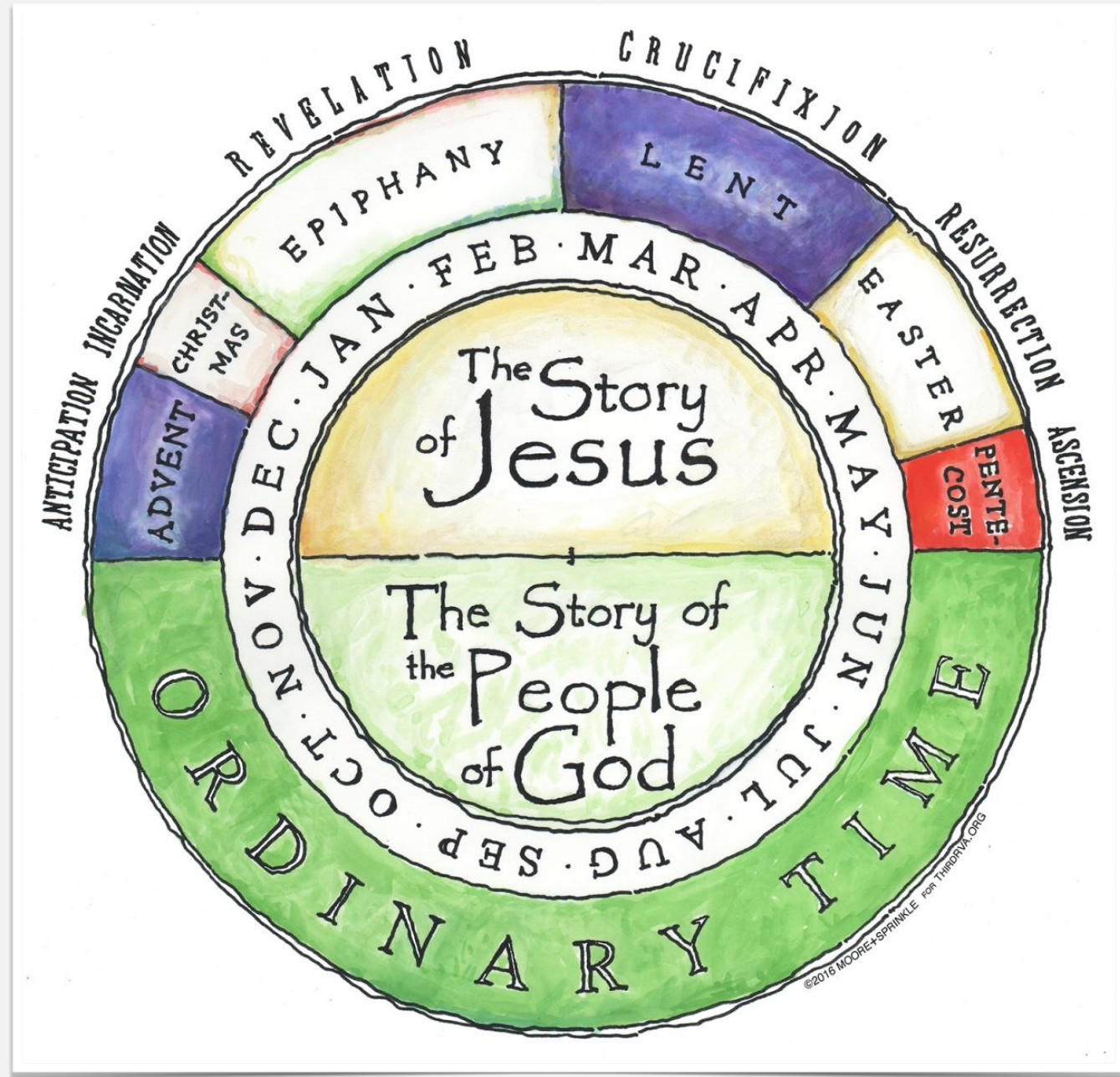
so that by hearing the message of salvation the whole world may believe,
by believing it may hope, and by hoping it may love.

DEEP MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE BIBLE BY BP. ROBERT BARRON



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1. Reflect and learn from the past year
2. Look forward with fresh hope to things to come



MEANING OF ADVENT?

Advent

Purple – the color of penitence and royalty

From Latin 'adventus' meaning coming.

WHO IS COMING? ...

He Will Come Again in Glory to Judge the Living and the Dead (...)



...Jesus the King!

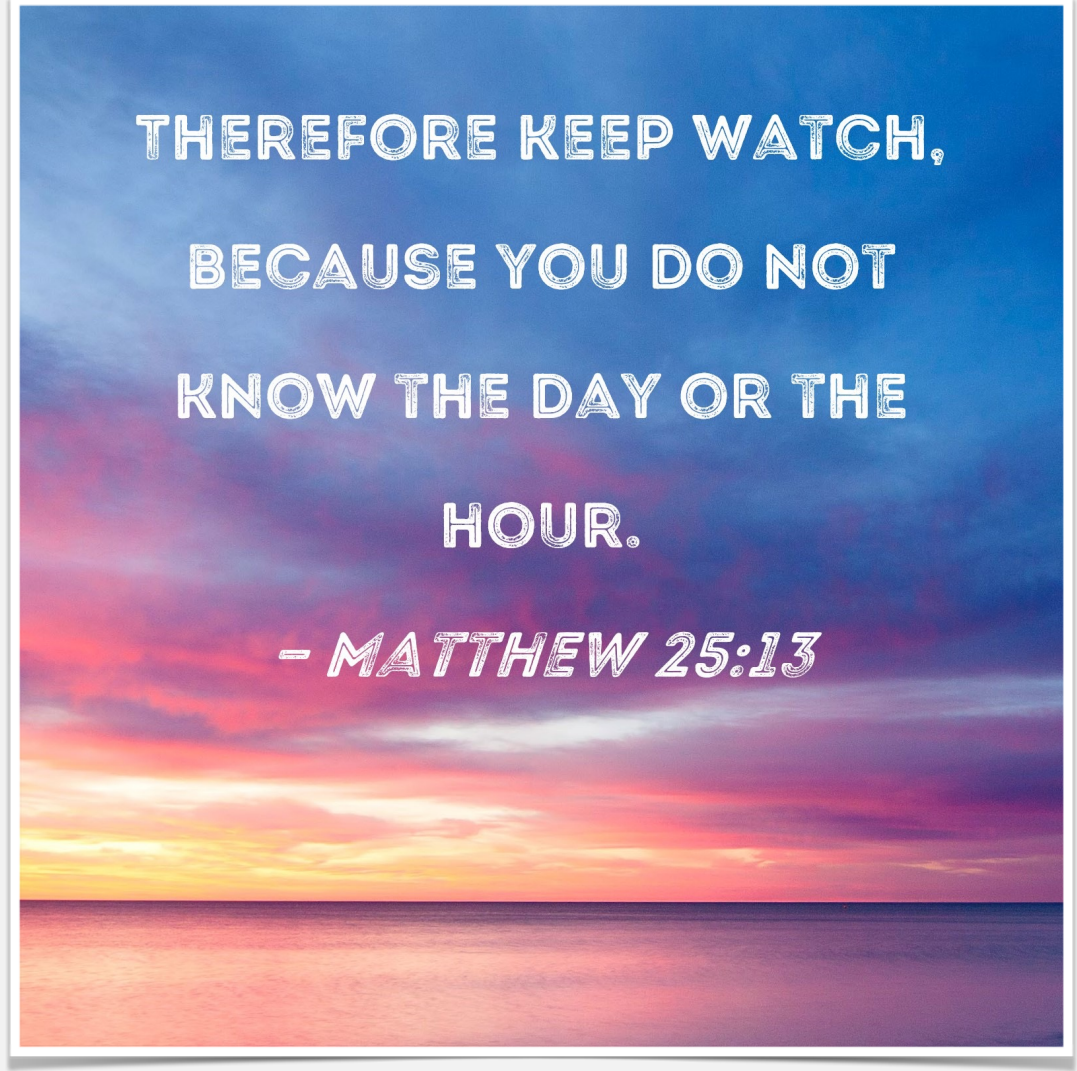
WHEN IS CHRIST COMING?

Matthew 24:36-39

No one knows when that day or time will be. Even the Son and the angels in heaven don't know. Only the Father knows. When the Son of Man comes, it will be the same as what happened during Noah's time. In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking. They were marrying and giving their children to be married. They were still doing those things until the day Noah entered the boat. They knew nothing about what was happening. But then the flood came, and all those people were destroyed. It will be the same when the Son of Man comes.

THEREFORE KEEP WATCH,
BECAUSE YOU DO NOT
KNOW THE DAY OR THE
HOUR.

- MATTHEW 25:13

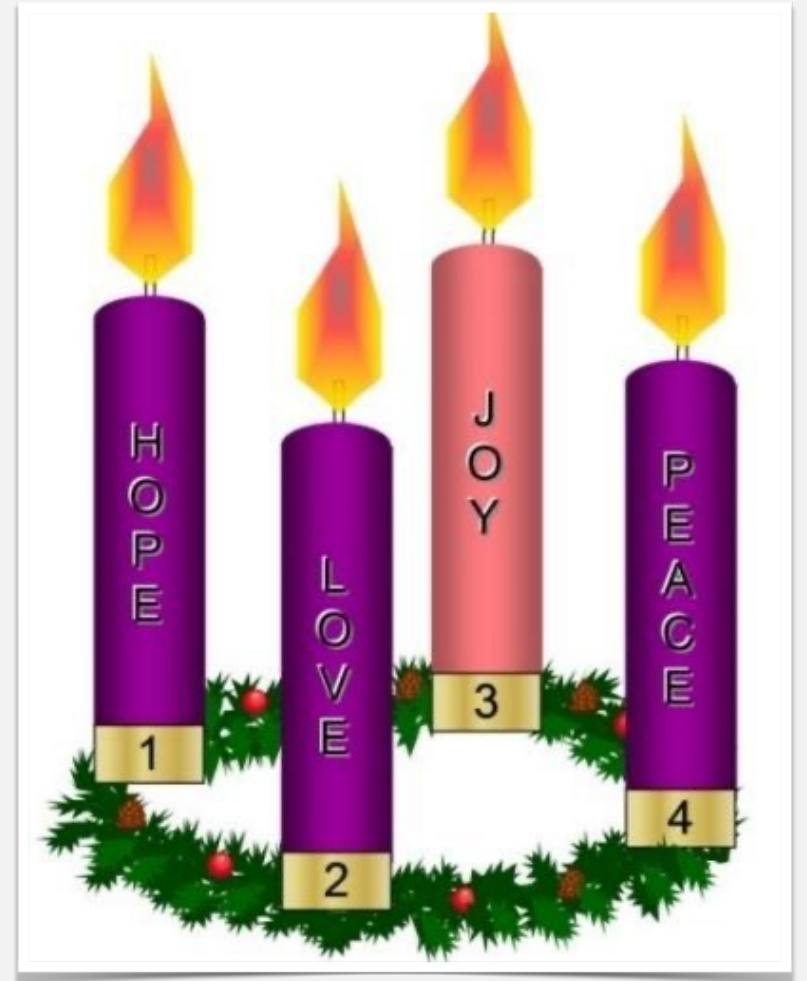


HOW TO KEEP WATCH?

1. DON'T FALL ASLEEP!
2. SEEK YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL'S HELP
3. TAKE A MOMENT TO SAY: "I can't wait to meet you Jesus"
3. KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE CLOCK
4. READ A VERSE OR STORY FROM THE BIBLE
5. REVIEW YOUR CHOICES EACH EVENING
6. THANK GOD FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE NEW DAY
7. REGULARLY MONITOR CCTV
11. EMPLOY A SECURITY GUARD FOR YOUR HOME
8. BE DETERMINED TO DO A GOOD DEED EACH DAY
9. DRINK A COUPLE OF ENERGY DRINKS
10. PRAY 6 HOURS/DAY
12. MAKE A SACRIFICE (e.g. missing a treat for the day)

THE SIGN OF ADVENT

- 1.SHAPE
- 2.COLOURS
- 3.NUMBERS
- 4.FLAMES
- 5.THEMES



LIGHT OF THE WORLD...



*"I am the
light of
the
world."*

JOHN 8:12

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD...

CCC 1095

For this reason the Church, especially during Advent and Lent and above all at the Easter Vigil, **re-reads and re-lives** the great events of salvation history (...)

Mark 1:1-3

This is the beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as the prophet Isaiah wrote:

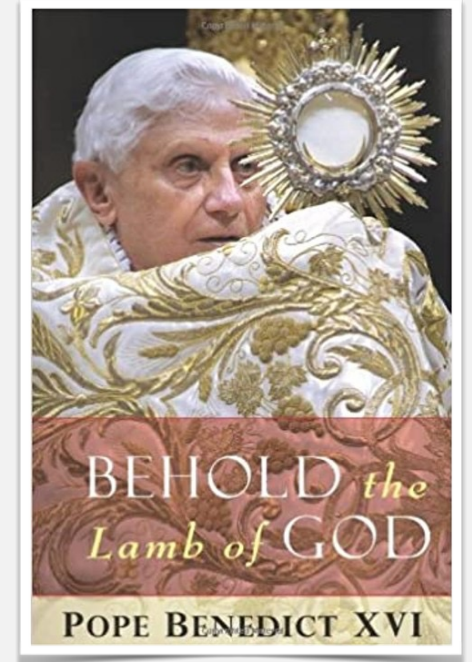
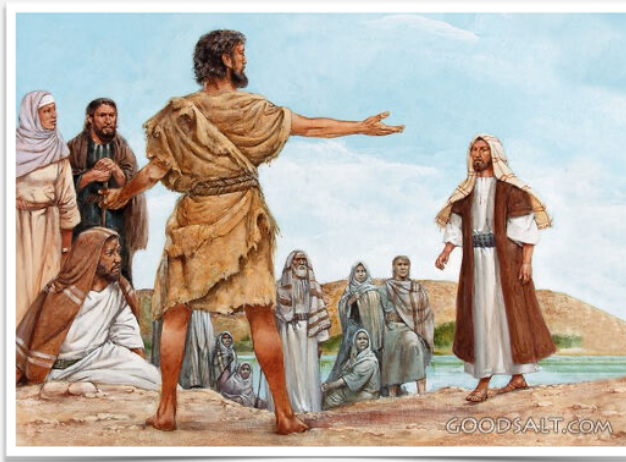
"I will send my messenger ahead of you.

He will prepare your way." [Malachi 3:1](#)

"There is a voice of a man who

calls out in the desert:
'Prepare the way for the Lord.

Make the road straight for him.'" [Isaiah 40:3](#)



CCC 524

When the Church celebrates *the liturgy of **Advent*** each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.

COMINGS ...

FIRST COMING

- ☑ IN TIME
- ☑ IN HUMILITY
- ☑ SECOND PART OF ADVENT
(17 - 24th December)



SECOND COMING

- ☑ UNKNOWN TIME IN THE FUTURE
- ☑ IN POWER AND GLORY
- ☑ FIRST PART OF ADVENT
(1st Sunday of Advent - 16th December)



CHRISTMAS - 'CHRIST'S MASS'

★ CHRIST IS THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD

★ CHRISTMAS TREE

- Christmas tree represents the Tree of Life (garden of Eden)
- life and growth during a dormant season
- green pine branches which symbolise everlasting life
- lit tree is a reminder of the light brought by Christ
- apples or apple ornaments symbolise fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (original sin)

★ CHRISTMAS CRIB

★ MIDNIGHT MASS (SHEPHERDS' MASS)

