

Christmas Lent

**Intro Song:** The King He Comes by Ike Ndolo

**Prayer:**

- ***Psalm 51***

- [16] For thou hast no delight in sacrifice;
- were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased.
- [17] The sacrifice acceptable to God *is a broken spirit;*
- *a broken and contrite heart*, O God, thou wilt not despise.

- **Advent Prayer**

**The Season of Advent is upon us!**

- Prepare the way of the LORD!
  - How do You celebrate the season of Advent?
    - I treat it like a mini-lent
    - Prepare for the Lord's coming!
    - I especially love this season as one FILLED with typology... the longing of the people of God for the coming Messiah!
- ***From NewAdvent.com***
  - In the Masses the intention of the [Church](#) is shown in the choice of the Epistles and Gospels. In the Epistle she exhorts the faithful that, since the Redeemer is nearer, they should cast aside the

works of darkness and put on the armor of light; should walk honestly, as in the day, and put on the [Lord Jesus Christ](#); she shows that the nations are called to praise the name of the Lord; she asks them to rejoice in the nearness of the Lord, so that the price of [God](#), which surpasses all understanding, may keep their hearts and minds in [Christ Jesus](#); she admonishes them not to pass judgment, for the Lord, when He comes, will manifest the secrets hidden in hearts. In the Gospels the [Church](#) speaks of the Lord coming in glory; of Him in, and through, Whom the prophecies are being fulfilled; of the Eternal walking in the midst of the [Jews](#); of the voice in the [desert](#), "Prepare ye the way of the Lord". The [Church](#) in her Liturgy takes us in spirit back to the time before the incarnation of the [Son of God](#), as though it were really yet to take place. [Cardinal Wiseman](#) says:

- We are not dryly exhorted to profit by that blessed event, but we are daily made to sigh with the Fathers of old, "Send down the dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One: let the earth be opened, and bud forth the Redeemer." The Collects on three of the four [Sundays](#) of that season begin with the words, "Lord, raise up thy power and come" — as though we feared our iniquities would prevent His being born.
- Our Lady, and St. Joseph, would have recalled the Garden of Eden when pondering the Child that was coming!
  - The Fall of Man!
  - Death enters into creation

- Death now is required for reconciliation!
  - There in Genesis 3 we see the FIRST confession!
  - The hope of MAN is announced as the proto-Gospel in Gen. 3:15
- **Confession!**
    - **1422** "Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion."
    - **1431** Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace. This conversion of heart is accompanied by a salutary pain and sadness which the Fathers called *animi cruciatus* (affliction of spirit) and *compunctio cordis* (repentance of heart).

- **The Pattern emerges:**
  - **Grace** - We walk in Grace (after baptism) until we commit sin
  - **The Test** - We are tempted to break the 10 commandments
  - **The Fall** - We give way to temptation and fall from Grace
  - **Effects of the Fall** -The effects of sin is the sin itself... i.e. we become addicts
  - **Encounter with God** - God meets us half way in the confessional - waiting & watching for us
  - **Confession** - We confess our sins to Jesus and accuse ourselves
  - **Reconciliation** - Jesus absolves us of our sins clothing us in His Grace
  - **Penance** - We are given penance to make up for our sins
  - **Restoration to Grace** - having made our penance we are restored to Grace & dignity as sons & daughters of God.

## **Allegory: Garden of Eden & the Prodigal Son**

- Adam & Eve where living in the Garden -
  - The younger son lived with his Father as a son
- Satan tested Adam & Eve -
  - The younger son lusted for wealth
- Adam & Eve ate the fruit -
  - The Father gave the son his half of inheritance
- Adam & Eve were naked -
  - The son went broke & lived in the mud/fed pigs
- God Walked in the cool of the day -
  - The Father waited and ran to the son

- Adam & Eve confessed their sin -
  - The son begged his Fathers mercy
- God made clothing for them -
  - The Father brought robs, shoes, ring
- Adam work in labor/Eve labor in pain -
  - forfeited inheritance, and must work as servant
- God proclaims the coming messiah -
  - The Fr. kills the calf to celebrate sons return

The Same pattern is used in Gen. 4 with Cain & Able, as well as with Nathaniel and David in 2 Samuel 12

You could, of course, simply pray to God, asking for his forgiveness however, the only way for you to KNOW for SURE that you were reconciled was to go to the Priest and offer the sacrifice. This was the Liturgical practice that God gave to Moses, commanding him to institute it, from Mount Sinai... not man's invention... God's command. Now lets fast forward to Jesus.

***St. Matthew 9:***

[1] And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

[2] And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."

[3] And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming."

[4] But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

[5] For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?

[6] ***But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins***" -- he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home."

[7] And he rose and went home.

[8] *When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.*

**Notice** the last word in verse 8, "men"... its plural not singular.

### ***St. John 20:***

[19] On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

[20] When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

[21] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. *As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.*"

[22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ***"Receive the Holy Spirit.***

[23] *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*"

**Notice** that Jesus has now given the SAME authority, to

forgive sins, and also to NOT forgive sins, to the Apostles in the upper room? They are sent into the world, by Jesus, to do what HE has commanded them to do... preach the Gospel, make disciples, forgive sins.... administer the Sacraments! This is why Jesus had the 12 feed the crowds in the wilderness and THEIR baskets were full in the end... because HE was sending THEM to do HIS bidding. If you want to be fed by Jesus where do you go? To HIS disciples (now Bishops)! Speaking to His disciples Jesus said:

***St. Matthew 13:***

[11] And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

[12] For to him who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

**Note:** Confession to a Priest in OT - Lev. 4 & 19