

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION
The First Sunday of Advent
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord



*Fr. Rudy Coaquira-Hijale,
MCCJ, pastor*

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Advent begins with a single, brilliant word: hope. It is more than a wish or vague optimism; it is the confident expectation that God is faithful to his promises. As we light the first candle of the Advent wreath and mark the beginning of a new liturgical year, we are invited once again to lift our eyes toward the coming of Christ, both his birth in Bethlehem and his return in glory.

In today's Gospel, Jesus does not describe the Nativity. Instead, he speaks of the end of time, a moment known only to the Father, when the Son of Man will come again. His words are not meant to frighten us but to awaken us. He urges, "Stay awake! You do not know on which day your Lord will come." The Advent message is clear: live each day as though it matters eternally, for it does.

We often measure our lives by calendars and clocks, deadlines and seasons, beginnings and endings. But God's time is not our time. The Lord's presence moves quietly through the minutes of our days. He is there in kindness offered, prayers whispered, burdens carried, and acts of mercy unseen. The call of Advent is to notice him there and to let his light illuminate even the most ordinary moments of our lives.

When St. Paul exhorted the early Christians to "put on the armor of light" and "walk in the light of the Lord," he was reminding them, and us, that faith is not passive waiting. It is active readiness. To walk in the light means to live with hearts open and souls alert, resisting the shadows of distraction and indifference.



As we prepare for Christmas, the world around us will rush to decorate, shop, and celebrate. For the believer, however, Advent is not merely a countdown to December 25. It is a sacred invitation to awaken our hearts. Let us take time to pray more deeply, to reconcile what is broken, and to see Christ in the people and circumstances placed before us.

Christ's coming is not only a future event to anticipate. It is a present reality to welcome. He comes to us in the Eucharist, in his Word, and in the faces of those we love and serve. The Lord who once came in humility and will come again in glory also comes now in grace.

May we, in these Advent days, stay awake and walk in his light, trusting the promise that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." In this promise lies our unshakable hope, the light that no darkness can overcome.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy

**OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES**



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
**ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH**
**ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH**