

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION
The Second Sunday of Advent
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

Preparing the Way for Peace



Fr. Rudy Coaquira-Hijale,
MCCJ, pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

This week, as we light the second purple candle on our Advent wreath, we meditate on a life-affirming theme that prepares our hearts for the birth of the Christ Child: peace. What a lovely and hopeful word. Throughout history, humanity has longed for peace in every land, in every home, and in every heart. And yet, in a world marked by division, uncertainty, and personal burdens that weigh heavily on each of us, true peace can feel distant, fragile, and hard to grasp.

The Hebrew word for peace, *shalom*, is used hundreds of times in Scripture. More than simply the absence of conflict, *shalom* speaks of wholeness, harmony, human flourishing, and the original design of God's creation before sin wounded the world. God promised through his covenant of peace (cf. Ezekiel 34:24-25) that he would restore that wholeness by sending a Savior, the Prince of Peace. Jesus confirms this gift when he tells his disciples, "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you" (John 14:27). No earthly comfort, no achievement, and no possession can secure what Christ alone offers. As Saint Bruno beautifully observed, "While the world changes, the cross stands firm."

But today's Gospel reminds us that the path to peace is not passive. On this Second Sunday of Advent, we encounter John the Baptist, the bold prophet crying out in the desert: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2). His voice does not soothe; it stirs. John calls us to wake up, turn from sin, and prepare our hearts for the One who is coming with power, not only as a Child in Bethlehem, but as the Judge of all history. True peace begins when we allow God to reorder our hearts and cleanse what is broken within us.

John uses vivid imagery: mountains brought low, valleys filled in, crooked ways made straight. This is the spiritual construction project of Advent by removing the obstacles that block God's presence. Pride must be humbled. Bitter grudges must be surrendered. Harsh words and divisions must soften. Indifference to the needs of others must be transformed into compassion and justice. Peace is not merely a prayer; it is a way of life shaped by ongoing conversion.

How urgent and timely is this message! God desires to dwell in every moment of our lives and in every corner of our wounded world. **Saint John Paul II once preached that preparing for Christ means to "straighten" injustices, 'fill' the void with goodness, mercy, respect and understanding, 'bring low' pride, barriers and violence, and 'make smooth' all that prevents people from living a free and dignified life." This is the work of Advent. This is the work of Christian peace.**

As we draw closer to the celebration of Christ's birth, let us listen anew to John's voice echoing through the centuries. Let us ask for the grace to make our hearts a dwelling place for the Prince of Peace.

Let there be peace on earth—and let it begin with me.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy



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FAMILY OF PARISHES



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ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH