



CHRISTMAS MAY NOT COME AGAIN BUT CHRIST WILL!

The First Sunday of Advent has arrived, and so too has the opportunity for us to **get ready**. And while the temptation to get caught up in preparing for *the Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity/Christmas* seems to be omnipresent to the eyes and ears, the Christ of Christmas Himself in the Gospel for the last Sunday/*the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*, told us in no uncertain times that **it is Him we need to be getting ready for!**

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory" He said, "and all the angels with Him, He will sit upon His glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before Him. And He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, a stranger and you welcomed Me, naked and you clothed Me, ill and you cared for Me, in prison and you visited Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him and say, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? When did we see You ill or in prison, and visit You?' And the King will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, a stranger and you gave Me no welcome, naked and you gave Me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for Me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to Your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for Me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life" (Saint Matthew XXV:31-46).

If last Sunday's offering of finances (see the following Page) is any indication, it appears that Sunday Mass-goers got Christ's message. The first offering alone was more than it has been for many weeks, and the second offering (for Human Services where we carry out the Corporal Works of Mercy identified by the Lord) reached nearly \$4,000.00!

Now it's up to all of us who got the message to go out and get the message to everyone else not just before Christmas comes again, but before Christ comes again in His glory, and all the angels with Him, ...

Christmas Anticipation Prayer

Beginning on **30 November, the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle**, the following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited **fifteen times a day** until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the real focus of Christmas and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born
of the most pure Virgin Mary, at Midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.*

In that hour vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires,

[here mention your resolution]

through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

