



December 2, 2018

REFLECTION FROM FR. PETER

(Luke 21-25-28, 34-36)

**BELIEVE THE PROMISE!** The First Week of Advent marks a new liturgical year. Today's readings remind us of the promise that God made with His people — Jeremiah's words announcing a future wherein God's promise of restoration will be fulfilled. A shoot—a sign of new life springing from previous life—will be raised up for the Davidic house.

There's something compelling about a promise. When you *promise something* to someone, you're giving part of yourself. When someone you trust promises that they will come through for you, you don't feel alone. Your friend is promising you their presence. The Bible is filled with God's promises to us.

What does God promise? Not wealth or success or a life free from suffering. He promises us a *person*. God is promising us *his personal presence* that we can see and touch. And in the gospel, we see the fulfillment of God's promise in a person, Jesus Christ. Jesus is "God among us". God has come through for us. God is with us.

Sometimes our hearts can get drowsy. Jesus warns us about this in the gospel today. When our hearts grow drowsy we lose sight of the promise. That's why the Church gives us Advent. Advent is a gentle wake-up call, a 4 week period to prepare our hearts for Christmas. It's a time to believe in God's promise to give us true purpose and joy in Jesus Christ.

*Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang*



**MARIA ALANGARAM** was 77 years old when she passed away suddenly on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. She is survived by 6 sons and one daughter, and 10 grandchildren. Fr. Michael is the third child. Her Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, at St. James Catholic Church in Vadasery, South India.

The whole parish, as well as the Bishop, attended her funeral ... all were surprised to see so many people in attendance, irrespective of what faith they were. Fr. Michael's mother was very involved with the parish, and also with community groups, and therefore touched many lives. He claims, "She was one great soul who lived with courage and faith".

Fr. Michael asks that he and his family be kept in your prayers (they send their gratitude), as well as prayers for his mother's soul.



**COOKIES, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE?** — Catholic Community Services is having their annual Christmas Social on Friday, **December 21<sup>st</sup>**, 9am—1pm, at both CCS locations. If you can help distribute beverages, cookies, and gifts, email, or call, Nicole at: [nhughes@cclsc.org](mailto:nhughes@cclsc.org) (541-345-3628, ext. 317).



### ANNUAL SVDP TURKEY DRIVE **November 1—December 9**

Yes — turkeys and geese and chickens and hams! (Please — no lions or tigers!)  
Donations can be brought to Mass on the weekends (freezer is in the Rel. Ed Bldg.)  
or to the office on Wednesdays and Fridays during the drive.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped into the SVDP bins in the Entryway.

Thank you for your care of our neighbors who need a little bit of help providing Christmas dinner for their families!



**Don't Forget!**  
**WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE** for Catholic Community Services  
~ coats, gloves, hats, socks, etc. ~  
(barrel in Entryway)



### **BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH AT HOME**

The use of the **ADVENT WREATH** is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Response (R/.)** Who made heaven and earth.

Then one of the following Scripture passages is read: Isaiah 9:1-2,5-6 or Isaiah 63:16-17,19 or Isaiah 64:2-7

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**R/.** Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R/.** Amen.

The blessing may conclude with

O come, desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
bid ev'ry sad division cease  
and be thyself our Prince of peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

