

Homily for Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025
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We celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, four more days until Christmas Day. We may have more preparations in getting ready for Christmas gatherings, food to be bought and prepared, gifts still to be purchased, and many other holiday details. Though we are mindful of these preparations, we should be even more attentive to our Advent preparation. We will pray in the prayer after Communion, “We pray, Almighty God, that as the feast day of our salvation draws ever near, so may we press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son’s nativity.” In these remaining few days of Advent preparation, may we be intentional by God’s grace and help to live this prayer desire, “to press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son’s nativity.” “Press forward all the more eagerly”, there is an urgency and excitement in this prayer, an urgency and excitement in our time of spiritual Advent preparation as we receive our Eucharistic Lord and through these graces enter more fully into “the worthy celebration of the mystery of His nativity.”

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we heard in the Gospel the prophecy given through the Prophet Isaiah, “Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us’.”

On this final Sunday of Advent, let us live a spiritual urgency to be more fully aware in our time of preparation for Christmas of “God is with us.” As we prepare to celebrate the first coming of Our Lord at Christmas, are we aware of celebrating His daily comings into the circumstances of our lives. Pray to be aware of the Lord who comes, is present to us and a God who is with us. Invite the Lord who comes and is present in His love and care for us into the cares of our own daily lives – our joys, sorrows, loss and grief, thanksgivings, challenges and difficulties, our struggles, fears and anxieties, failures and disappointments, times of discouragement and times of hope. In these final days of Advent preparation take these days seriously to become more aware in faith of how the Lord comes into your life. From this greater awareness of the Lord who comes to us, may we have an ever-greater appreciation of the Lord who has come for all of us, ever present in the life of the world as we celebrate the feast of Christmas, our Emmanuel – “God is with us.”

As you have your Christmas celebrations, may we keep Christ in Christmas and celebrate the gift of Jesus, who has come and continues to come into our daily lives. May God bless you and have a blessed Christmas season.