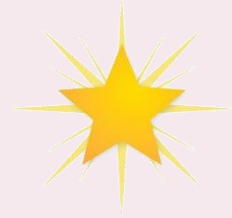




From the Desk of Father Peter



Advent is a Time to Listen to God

Amid the turmoil of the world around us or the deserts of indifference and materialism, Christians accept salvation from God and witness with a different way of life. For us Catholic Christians,



*Advent refers to two moments related to the first and second coming of Jesus; the first is the Incarnation and the second is His coming at the end of time. As we are *Awaiting His Presence*, let our goal for this Advent Season be the strengthening of the faith of all Catholics leading with our example and cherishing the gift of one another. Here are some important ways to do just that:*

- 1. **Participate in Mass**—Regular Mass attendance strengthens one's faith through the Scriptures, the Creed, other prayers, sacred music, the homily, receiving Communion and being part of the faith community.*
- 2. **Go to Confession**—Like going to Mass, Catholics find strength and grow deeper in their faith through participation in the Sacrament of Penance. It forgives the injuries of the past and provides strength for the future.*
- 3. **Learn about the Lives of the Saints**—The saints are timeless examples of how to live a Christian life, and they provide endless hope. Not only were they sinners who kept trying to grow closer to God, but they also exemplify ways a person can serve God through teaching, missionary work, charity, prayer and simply trying to please God in the ordinary actions and decisions of daily life.*

4. *Read the Bible Daily* — Scripture offers first-hand access to the Word of God and tells the story of human salvation. Reading the Bible is a must for growth in our faith.
5. *Read the Documents of Vatican II* —The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) ushered in a wonderful renewal for the Church. It impacted how Mass is celebrated, the role of the laity, how the Church understands itself and its relationship with other Christians and non-Christians. To continue the renewal, Catholics must understand what the Council taught and how it enriches the lives of believers.
6. *Study the Catechism* —The Catechism of the Catholic Church covers the beliefs, moral teaching, prayer and sacraments of the Catholic Church. It's a resource for growing in understanding of the faith.
7. *Volunteer in the Parish*—People are welcome as ministers of hospitality, lectors, and other roles in parish life.
8. *Help Those in Need*— Helping others brings Catholics face-to-face with Christ and creates an example for the rest of the world.
9. *Invite a Friend to Mass* — Focusing on a renewal of faith and evangelization for the whole Church, a personal invitation can make all the difference to someone who has drifted from the faith or feels alienated from the Church. Everyone knows people like this, so everyone can extend a loving welcome. Be an “Advent disciple” to someone.
10. *Incorporate the Beatitudes into Daily Life* —The Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-12 provide a rich blueprint for Christian living. Their wisdom can help all to be humble, patient, just, transparent, loving,

forgiving, and free. It's precisely the example of lived faith needed to draw people to the Church in the year ahead.



Happy Advent Season to All

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu