

YOUTH MINISTRY

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Jane Grzegorzcyk
Director
894-2701

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IN THE END...WHAT WILL MATTER

Merry Christmas!

*Although the season of Advent has come
to an end—it has not ended for us.*

*Whether we are aware of it or not—
we continue waiting
for Christ's second coming.*

*Liturgically we've moved forward to
celebrate Christmas. Our calendar
progresses one day at a time.*

*Clocks continue to tick away
the minutes and the hours.*

And we continue to wait.

Christ was born over 2000 years ago.

He promised to come back.

*We've readied the house, the tree, the
gifts, the party in commemoration of
His Birth. What have we done to ready
our hearts for His Second Coming.*

At the end of time...what will matter.

*Although Advent is over—continue to
prepare your hearts & your lives for
Christ to enter in. Is there room there?*

Praying the Psalms

* Psalm 3:
Morning Prayer
for Help

Psalm 10:
A Prayer for Justice

* Psalm 59:
A Prayer for Safety

Psalm 85:
A Prayer for
the Nation's Welfare

* Psalm 95:
A Song of Praise

* Psalm 102:
The Prayer of
a Troubled Youth

* Psalm 141:
An Evening Prayer

God our Father,
We know you
listen to us
when we pray.
Today we pray
for those who
do not know
how to pray or
have no one to
pray for them.
We ask that you
grant our
brothers and
sisters all they
need, food,
clothing, shel-
ter and health.
Amen



Make Time in Your Lives and Room in Your Hearts...for the Lord.

Advent began a new liturgical year, a new beginning, and another opportunity. Advent is about waiting – looking to the time when Christ will come...AGAIN!!! What does this mean? Christ came the first time in the flesh at his birth at Bethlehem; his mother human; his Father divine. Since Christ's suffering, death, resurrection and ascension we've been waiting for him to come back—to take us with him; to be with him forever in heaven. We've been waiting 2000 years.

Much has happened during those 2000 years. One thing that has happened is *we've forgotten that we're waiting*. We've become complacent and have lost our sense of urgency about praying. We've become very independent, relying on our own selves. Yet Jesus told us to be as little children, dependent on our God and Creator, knowing that all good *is from* Him, knowing that everything depends *on* Him. We are mere instruments of God; instruments in need of following our Lord, Jesus; creations in constant and continual dependence on our loving God. Who, like a loving mother and caring father picks us up when we fall, wraps forgiving arms around us like a soothing balm, healing us...if...we but trust and let go.

Who is this God? What do we need to do to familiarize

ourselves with the one who gave life to us? How do we get to know the three persons of the Trinity, our God? Where will we find God? Why is it vitally important to our well-being? To our future?

It is all about time; giving time, taking the time, spending time. God gave time to us. Why? God gave us time to get to know **Him**, to love **Him**, to serve **Him**. God gave us time to bless Him and to give glory to Him. He gave us gifts and talents to use to glorify HIM not to promote ourselves.

Although it is Christmas, we are Advent people waiting for Christ to come again. At Christ's second coming, time will cease. War will be no more. Lion and the lamb will lie down together. Swords will be used to plow the fields. There will be no more fear.

Are we ready for that great day or do we live in fear of that day because of the way we use the time entrusted to us by our loving God? For what are we working? For whom are we busied about? What is motivating us? Are we being true to ourselves? Or do we do what others are doing? Wanting what others have?

Peer pressure exists at every age, not just in the teens.

Peer pressure has to be acknowledged and controlled by us. We've got to get a handle on it or our young people never will.

What can you do to balance your life in such way to include God, prayer, Mass, Church activities, learning about the Catholic faith, learning about God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit? How else can you know God if you have no time for the One Who created you? We know neither the day nor the hour when Christ will come again. Will he find us ready?

Begin to say "no" to extracurricular activities on Sundays. Say "no" to a schedule that does not allow time for Mass on Sunday. Help our young people to say "no" to the employer who schedules them to work Saturday evenings **and** Sunday mornings. Keep Sundays sacred and holy. Eat suppers together as a family each evening. Pray before you eat giving thanks to God for the blessings before you. Bless your children before bed, before leaving the home. Teach your children to pray. Begin to pray even if it is a simple sign of the cross. Put God and family first.

Then God will be born in your hearts and in the hearts of those you love. Ready the way. We are building God's kingdom NOW.