

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

Parish

DECEMBER 5, 2021 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

Saturday | 4:00pm
Sunday | 8:30am, 10:30am
(English)
12:30pm (Vietnamese)

WEEKDAY

Daily | 8:30am in Church

HOLY DAYS

8:30am (English)
6:30pm (Bilingual)

RECONCILIATION

Monday, December 20, 2021
3-8pm or by appointment.

WELCOME

We are happy you decided to worship with us. If you are visiting just for today, we pray God will be with you on your journey. If you are seeking a church home, we would be happy to welcome you into our parish community. If you are interested in joining our parish family, please call the parish office.



OUR LOCATION

 7963 S 116th Street Franklin, WI 53132

 414-425-1114

 parish@stmof Tours.org  www.stmof Tours.org

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30AM to 4:00PM.

 www.facebook.com/stmofTours.org

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Martin of Tours Parish strives to be a vibrant, welcoming Roman Catholic Community, and to accept the call and challenge of Jesus through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We commit ourselves to the Word of God through Eucharistic worship, lifelong Catholic education and formation, and works of justice and stewardship.

We further strive to follow the example of our patron saint, Martin of Tours, to proclaim the Kingdom of God through generosity, love, and service to one another and our neighbors.

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MINISTERS - DECEMBER 12, 2021

4:00pm - Lector: Jim Wier
Hospitality: Ken Keefer, Ray Lenz, Dave & Cindy Kunze

8:30 am - Lector: Mark Schlachter
Hospitality: Bob Mihm, Tim & Emily Shiroda, Joe Koshick, Barb Bing, Larry Schweitzer,
Keith Ponath

10:30 am - Lector: Rashel Walman
Hospitality: Cindy Bujanovich, Mike Kressuk, Dave & Cindy Flynn

GIVE ONLINE TODAY!

<https://stmoftours.churchgiving.com>

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Terry Langley, SCJ - Administrator/Pastor
Ext. 3005 or 414-209-7677 - langleyterence@gmail.com

Charles Schneider and Linh Bruno Nguyen - Deacons
Dn. Chuck - 414-406-4608 or drehen@msnc.om

Diane Winkowski - Administrative Assistant
Ext. 3001 or 414-209-7678 - dianew@stmoftours.org

Julie Baker - Bookkeeper
Ext. 3012 or 414-209-7682 - jbakerm@stmoftours.org

Katie Delemont - Christian Formation
Ext. 3004 or 414-209-7684 - kdelemont@stmoftours.org

Mary MacDonald - Music Director
414-704-5611 - marykempsmac@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offering

Nov 28, 2021 \$ 11,842
Year-to-Date \$258,012
Our Goal \$251,380

HOTROD Offering

Year-to-Date \$ 50,923
Our Goal \$201,008

Year-End Donations

We appreciate all of the year-end donations we receive from parishioners and visitors to our parish but want to share the guidelines we follow in accepting these toward your 2021 contribution.

The IRS allows individuals to deduct charitable donations from their income in the year the donations were delivered. Gifts delivered in the weekend collections are easily recorded with those dates. When a donation is mailed, we are required to use the postmark date to determine when the donation was made.

During the week of December 26, we will accept your year-end donations during Parish Office hours, or use the mail slot in the Parish Office door thru Friday, December 31, and we will apply it to your 2021 contribution record.

Thank you for your continuous generosity and support!

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of December 5

Sunday

8:30 am † Virginia Wojciechowski - Family

10:30am † All Parishioners Living & Dead

Monday † Mary Thompson - Cindy Campbell

Tuesday † Joseph, Alice & Grace Rupinski - Family

Wednesday

8:30 am † Donald Acker & Bobby Blaser - Family

6:30 pm † Bob Trepanier - Wife

Thursday † Mary Balthazor - Michelle Kutcher

Friday † James Kobza - Jeff & Carol Bykowski

Saturday † All Parishioners Living & Dead

Next Sunday

8:30 am † G. Don Thompson - Ned & Judy Collins

10:30am † Ralph Hintz - Family & Friends

Observances

Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday St. Nicholas, Bishop

Tuesday St. Ambrose,

Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Friday Our Lady of Loreto

Saturday St. Damasus I, Pope

Next Sunday 3rd Sunday of Advent

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bill Blaser, Grace Ciesielski, Kathy Crisci, Gloria Dominiak,
Pat Friedewald, Jan Grant, Joseph Heil, Nick Ioder,
Susan Jensen, Greg Kaczmarek, Marlene Mishich,
Frank & Rafaela Rodriguez, Karen Rueth

Born to Eternal Life:

Janet Miech, Alice Bohn, Urban Pawlak

Have A Prayer Request Or Need A Pastoral Visit?

Contact the parish office.



THE CALL & CHALLENGE by Pat Boyer

THE IMPERFECT JOURNEY OF THIS CATHOLIC

Through all my early years I don't recall really learning a lot about prayer and the Bible. My faith life was mostly about following rules. The nuns having us toe the line so they could control the large class sizes. Learning the Baltimore Catechism by rote. Vatican II dramatically changed worship. No more Latin and the altar got turned around.

I thought I was a good Catholic who followed the rules, and did small works of charity. But when I retired, I started to realize there is more to be a Christian. I had been helping at weekly Mass at Tudor Oaks, the retirement community, where I would lector once a month, and writing the Prayers of the Faithful. My uncle, a priest, sent me the Magnificat prayer book. Making the daily Mass readings part of my prayer routine was a big change. Stories of saints and saintly people and reflections on Scripture opened my eyes.

Then our pastor asked me to write this bulletin column. Now I was studying the daily Mass readings. Often asking questions. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Lectionary for Mass, liturgical calendar, and especially the Bible with footnotes became valuable tools to find answers. I thought this was great progress because I read that studying Scripture was a form of prayer.

Yet, I still feel I fall short and do not pray or do enough as a Christian. I am slow to wake every day. It takes a couple cups of coffee before I feel lucid. Often, I will get distracted and not get to prayer right away. I don't always use the morning or evening prayers in my prayer book either. Most often my prayers are petitions for healing and help. Other times I thank God in my prayers for the blessings I have. I often forget to pray for specific people in need. Recently I joined the Maryknoll Prayer Guild. They give a prayer card to write down intentions to help me remember. I send my special intentions to them, and they are remembered in a Mass. Once a month they pray together by video online. At least for now I find it easier to pray with others, especially when praying the rosary.

I have heard it takes patience to learn how to pray, especially meditative prayer. My experience certainly verifies that. It takes time to grow. It isn't book learning. It is more like drills athletes go through, so they play correctly without thinking. I only regret I may have started too late in life to grow as close to God as others who started at a much younger age. IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO START

I am the first born of 24-year-old parents. They were only married one year and 2 days. Their lives were delayed by World War II, so they married a little later than many the first half of the 20th century. My dad had 1 brother and mom had a brother and sister. I think because of the depression my grandparents avoided having big families. That did not stop my folks. They brought into the world 8 siblings for me! When I tell people that I say they don't have to guess what religion my parents practiced.

Like me my siblings went to parochial schools through high school. I remember nuns in their habits being very strict with the large classes they taught. I remember the rote learning of the Baltimore Catechism. I was a server by 4th grade. My mother's brother was ordained when I was in 5th grade. I was impressed and for a while thought I would become a priest. In high school we no longer went to daily Mass. Vatican II changes also started then. By the time I was in college the altars were turned around and guitar Masses were the rage.

Then in college my future wife and I were literally thrown out of a church. We were married in the Church but for a few years our Mass attendance was sporadic because of sour experiences with a couple of priests. (Long stories.)

For most of my life I have been in Church choirs. From 5th to 7th grades I was in a boys' choir. The last 44 years I have been a cantor and choir member at St. Martins. The saying "to sing is to pray twice" was very real to me. That was how I prayed the most for years.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec 5 - 9:30am - Life Teen Session

Dec 6 - 5:30pm - Adoration
6:15pm - Religious Ed Classes

Dec 7 - 1pm - Grief Support Group
6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal

Dec 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8:30am - Mass in English
6:30pm - Mass - Bilingual

Dec 9 - 6pm - Usher's Meeting
6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal
7pm - Dynamic Men's Group

Dec 11/12 - Christian Women Bake/Card Sale
Dec 13 - 5:30pm - Adoration

6:15pm - Religious Ed Classes
Dec 14 - 1pm - Grief Support Group
6:30pm - Choir/Bell Rehearsal
7pm - Finance

Dec 16 - 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal

Dec 18/19 - Hospitality

Dec 19 - 9:30am - Life Teen Session

Dec 20 - 3pm - Reconciliation
5:30pm - Adoration

Dec 21 - 1pm - Grief Support Group
6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Friday, December 24, 2021

4:00pm - Mass in English
7:00pm - Mass in Vietnamese
10:00pm - Mass in English

Saturday, December 25, 2021

9:30am - Mass in English
11:30am - Mass in Vietnamese
No 4pm for Sunday

Sunday, December 26, 2021

8:30am - Mass in English
10:30am - Mass in English
12:30pm - Mass in Vietnamese

**Solemnity of Mary - Not Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, January 1, 2022**

9:00am - Mass Bilingual
Friday, December 31, 2021 - 8:30am, **no 4pm**
Saturday, January 1, 2022 - **no 4pm for Sunday**

Sunday, January 2, 2021 - Epiphany

8:30am - Mass in English
10:30am - Mass in English
12:30pm - Mass in Vietnamese

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday Readings

©LPi

First Reading:

For God will show all the earth your splendor:
you will be named by God forever
the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.
(Bar 5:4)

Psalm

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. (Ps 126)

Second Reading:

And this is my prayer:
that your love may increase ever more and more
in knowledge and every kind of perception,
to discern what is of value,
so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. (Phil 1:9-10)

Gospel:

*The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.* (Mk 7:37)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass
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WEEK OF DECEMBER 5

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6;
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14;
Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13;
Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab;
Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7;
Lk 3:10-18

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Second Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome.

God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

Get important and good news from your parish!
FLOCKNOTE is our private secure email/text message system.
Text STMOT to 84576 or stmot.flocknote.com to sign up! For
more information go to www.stmofours.org/flocknote

PRAYERS REQUESTED

SCJs from across the USA will be gathering at the Province Office complex during the first week of January 2022. We will be engaged in the process of bringing forth new leadership for the next three years. Please remember us in your prayers.

ADVENT DECORATIONS May Your Kingdom Come

Our banner at Christ the King proclaimed Christ "King of the Universe." Now, the liturgical year spins again into Advent, and the first gospel we hear is Luke proclaiming: Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars..."

This connection between the end of time, Advent, and the incarnation of Christmas is present throughout the seasons. Baruch: Look to the East (sunrise); the Psalmist: Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; and The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory; Hebrews: [God] has spoken to us through the Son, ...through whom he created the universe, who... sustains all things by his mighty word; John: All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be; Luke: And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel..."

Advent & Christmas, to be sure, point towards the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Just as sure, they point toward his coming again, today, and fully at time's end. As they point toward these, they use images of sun, creation, and light that go far beyond this incarnation being located only in Bethlehem, the human heart, or within humanity. Indeed: all the heavens proclaim the glory of God.

And so, enjoy our Advent decorations. May they remind us both the Sun and Son are our sources of light, center of gravity, and the orbit through which our lives travel. May the God of all creation come, and may all creation rise to meet him!

CHURCH KEY HOLDERS

Remember to turn off lights and lock all doors after meetings. Please return your church keys to the parish office when you no longer have a need to access the buildings outside of parish office hours for your ministry.

FOOD PANTRY

Manwich, Flour Tortillas, Spaghetti sauce, Ketchup, Mustard, Pancake Mix, Instant white rice, Salad dressing, Canned Carrots & Mixed Vegetables, Paper towels, Toilet paper, Diapers Size 3

Not able to make Tuesday between 10am & noon, call/email Barbee for appointment, 414-209-7674 /barbee@stmoftours.org.



The holiday season is one of the largest giving seasons for our church. Our online giving provider WeShare is generously providing a donor match program to help us increase recurring giving. Online gifts help reduce costs and our time spent handling other forms of payment.

For every first gift from a new recurring donor that is added between **November 1 and December 31, 2021**, WeShare will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 for our church. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31, 2021.

We appreciate your generosity and your support of our church. We prayerfully ask that you consider helping us meet this goal by creating your recurring online gift today.

Visit our WeShare site or reach out to the WeShare Customer Support team at 877-316-0260
<https://stmoftours.churchgiving.com>

SACRAMENTS

Baptism – Three month preparation for children of registered parishioners. Adults are asked to complete the RCIA.

First Eucharist – Students begin preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in first grade, receiving in second grade. Adults are asked to complete the RCIA.

Confirmation – High School Juniors prepare the entire year for Confirmation in spring. Adults are asked to complete the RCIA.

Marriage – Minimum six month preparation period for registered parishioners. A date will be set after your first appointment.

Holy Orders – Please contact any member of the Pastoral Staff, or SCJ Vocation Office, 414-427-4279 or 800-609-5559, www.scjvocation.org.

Anointing of the Sick – We welcome the opportunity to visit sick, homebound or hospitalized parishioners.

Christian Women are collecting socks for Baby Jesus. We will take new socks for all ages (newborn–adult). You can drop off your donation in the barrel in the hallway until December 12.

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

11/22/2021 - Doris Nerdahl - \$25

11/24/2021 - Lucy Moker - \$100

Calendar raffles for 2022 now on sale. Stop after mass to make your purchases. Your support is appreciated and you never know if/when you might win!

TỜ THÔNG TIN CỘNG ĐOÀN THÁNH TÊRÊSA HÀI ĐỒNG GIÊSU

06



Lời nguyện:

Lạy Thiên Chúa toàn năng ái tuất, xin đừng để chúng con mãi mê thế sự, chẳng còn hăm hở đi đón mừng Con Chúa, nhưng xin dạy chúng con biết ham thích những sự trên trời, hầu được cùng Người vui hưởng phúc trường sinh. Người là Thiên Chúa hằng sống và hiển trị cùng Chúa, hiệp nhất với Chúa Thánh Thần đến muôn thuở muôn đời.

Lịch Sinh Hoạt Cộng Đoàn

- 12/8 Thứ Tư: Lễ ĐM Vô Nhiễm Nguyên Tội, thánh lễ song ngữ lúc 6:30pm.
- 12/10 Thứ Sáu: các cha bắt đầu giải tội lúc 6:30pm, sau đó CĐ tĩnh tâm lúc 7pm.
- 12/24 Thứ Sáu Vọng Giáng Sinh, thánh lễ lúc 7:30pm
- 12/25 Thứ Bảy: Đại Lễ Giáng Sinh bắt đầu lúc 11:30am
- 1/1/2022 Thứ Bảy: Tết Dương Lịch, thánh lễ song ngữ bắt đầu lúc 9am.

Xin Lưu Ý:

Trong các Chúa Nhật Mùa Vọng, các cha sẽ ngồi tòa giải tội trước thánh lễ từ 11:45am đến 12:15pm và sau thánh lễ. Xin CĐ chuẩn bị tâm hồn trong sạch và sốt sắng đón mừng Ngôi Hai nhập thể.

Cảm Tạ và Tri Ơn:

Cộng Đoàn chúng xin con chân thành cảm tạ và tri ơn Dòng Thánh Tâm và các cha tuy rất bận rộn công việc của Nhà Dòng nhưng không quản ngại và hy sinh chăm sóc chúng con khi chưa có cha Quản Nhiệm. Chúng con không thể nói lên hết tấm lòng biết ơn của chúng con, chỉ nguyện xin Chúa Toàn Năng luôn ban thêm sức mạnh hồn xác cho các cha trên con đường dẫn thân phục vụ nhân loại trong sự quan phòng của Chúa Thánh Tâm.



LỊCH TRỰC PHỤNG VỤ

Chúa Nhật II Mùa Vọng – Năm C
Ngày 05 tháng 12 năm 2021 (Tím)

Giúp Lễ: Kimty, Sydney, Ivy
Đọc Lời Chúa: chị Vũ Lan, chị Khanh
Lời Nguyện: chị Yến
Dâng Lễ vật: GĐ anh Châu & chị Dung
Thừa Tác Viên TT: anh Công, chị Cúc

Chúa Nhật III Mùa Vọng – Năm C
Ngày 12 tháng 12 năm 2021 (Hong)

Giúp Lễ: Mai, Khôi, Kiên, Phong
Đọc Lời Chúa: anh Trí, anh Tiến
Lời Nguyện: chị Nhân
Dâng Lễ vật: GĐ anh Trí & chị Yến
Thừa Tác Viên TT: anh Toàn, anh Tiến

Chúa Nhật IV Mùa Vọng – Năm C
Ngày 19 tháng 12 năm 2021 (Tím)

Giúp Lễ: Paul, Mark, David
Đọc Lời Chúa: chị Huyền Trang, anh Tạ Huy
Lời Nguyện: chị Lê Loan
Dâng Lễ vật: GĐ anh Cường & chị Ngọc
Thừa Tác Viên TT:

Ý CẦU NGUYỆN THÁNG 12 CỦA ĐTC

Cầu cho các tổ chức tự nguyện vô vị lợi

Chúng ta cầu nguyện cho các tổ chức tình nguyện vô vị lợi biết cùng nhau cam kết phát triển con người. Giúp họ có được nhiều người tận tâm vì lợi ích chung và không ngừng tìm kiếm những con đường hợp tác quốc tế mới.

LIÊN LẠC CHA ỌN, HĐMV & CÁC TRƯỞNG BAN

- Cha Joseph-Thien Dinh, SCJ832-818-1902
- Anh Trí Lê (Chủ tịch)414-416-6679
- Anh Quang Đình (Phó nội vụ)414-530-6642
- Anh Tiến Phạm (Phó ngoại vụ)414-217-2227
- Chị Lan Đặng (Thư ký)262-617-6510
- Chị Điệp Võ (Thủ quỹ)262-366-8315
- Chị Hoan Châu (Hội CBMCG)414-719-4522
- Chị Trang (Ban Phụng Vụ)414-510-9074
- Chị Hương (Ban Việt Ngữ)414-630-2339
- Anh Hùng (Ban Gia Trưởng)262-374-1655
- Anh Tiến Nguyễn (CĐ Magnificat)203-560-8455
- Trưởng Vy (Đoàn TNTT)414-520-8953
- Anh Tiến Nguyễn (Hội Phụ Huynh)203-560-8455

TÌM HIỂU MÙA VỌNG

Tinh thần và Ý nghĩa của Mùa Vọng

Vọng là trông mong. Trong thời gian Mùa Vọng, Giáo Hội muốn chúng ta sống mãnh liệt hơn tâm tình khát mong Chúa đến. Nhưng Chúa đến lúc nào? Ta biết Chúa đã đến cách nay 2000 năm, trong thân phận làm người. Mùa Vọng có mục đích đầu tiên là chuẩn bị tâm hồn ta mừng lễ Giáng sinh, tức là kỷ niệm biến cố Ngôi Hai xuống thế làm người tại Bêlem xưa. Nhưng ta cũng tuyên xưng Người sẽ trở lại trong vinh quang để phán xét thế gian và hoàn thành công cuộc cứu độ không những đối với loài người mà còn đối với toàn thể vũ trụ nữa.

Mùa Vọng mời gọi chúng ta sống tích cực hướng về ngày đó mà giáo lý quen gọi là ngày cánh chung. Giữa hai lần Chúa đến ấy, còn có thể nói tới một lần nữa, đó là cuộc Chúa ngự đến cách nhiệm mầu trong tâm hồn chúng ta bằng ân sủng, như lời Kinh Thánh: "Ai yêu mến Ta, thì Cha Ta sẽ yêu mến người ấy và chúng ta sẽ cư ngụ trong người ấy". Như vậy, Mùa Vọng cử hành ba cuộc ngự đến. Cần nhớ tới cả ba nếu chúng ta muốn hiểu rõ nội dung của các bản văn Kinh Thánh và Phụng vụ của mùa này và có được những tâm tình thích hợp. Hồng y Newman đã viết: "Trong linh đạo Mùa Vọng, Đức Kitô xuất hiện như một người đã có mặt đó rồi, và đồng thời vẫn không ngừng được chờ mong. Và Kitô hữu sống linh đạo này như một người chờ đợi Đức Kitô".

Có thể nói chúng ta sống càng về phía trước. Mùa Vọng đến nhắc nhở chúng ta rằng cuộc đời ta còn dang dở và quê hương thật của ta ở trên trời. Mùa Vọng mời gọi ta nỗ lực lên đường tiến về Ngày của Chúa, ngày Chúa đến làm cho cuộc đời chúng ta cũng như toàn thể lịch sử nên sung mãn. Chính ngày đó đem lại cho cuộc sống hiện tại một hướng đi và một ý nghĩa cao cả. Vì thế nỗi chờ mong của ta cũng là một niềm hy vọng. Chúng ta chờ đợi với sự tin tưởng và nôn nóng như người vợ hiền chờ đợi người chồng mà bà đã biết, mà bà yêu mến và được yêu mến. "Đức Kitô về trời mang theo trái tim của Hội thánh. Tất cả đời sống của Hội thánh chỉ là một hành vi khao khát, hy vọng, cầu nguyện và đợi chờ" (Jean Daniélou). Lời cầu nguyện kết thúc toàn bộ Kinh Thánh mà thánh Gioan Tông đồ đã đặt vào miệng Giáo Hội đang bị bách hại là: Lạy Chúa Giêsu, xin ngự đến!

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