

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4-5, 2011 - Cycle B

*"Facing the Wind"*

It seems that Advent has "rolled around" pretty early this year. The first Sunday of Advent was November 27<sup>th</sup>. The second Sunday of Advent was December 5<sup>th</sup>. In all of this suddenness we hear traditional voices speaking to us through the scriptures. "A voice in the wilderness cries out." "Prepare, prepare the way; the Lord will make His presence known."

The question for us this Sunday, the second weekend of Advent is, "are we preparing?" "Are we preparing for the coming of the Lord?" Are we preparing for the arrival of the Lord at Christmas Time and at the End Time? Christmas Time celebrates the once, and historical birth of Jesus. The End Time remembrance prepares us for the second coming of Jesus, when everything will be judged and assimilated into the Kingdom of God.

Are we prepared for Christmas Time and the End Time? Perhaps the greater question is, “are we prepared for Christ who is coming to us all the time?”

A helpful suggestion for our Advent preparation might be to observe nature. I have observed a “squirrel-friend” of mine. He sits outside my window. He is very frisky and is always on the move. But when the North West wind begins to blow, he turns into the wind, and takes several minutes to think about the change that’s coming.

Likewise, I have observed a short tailed gossiger (a hawk) in my back yard. She keeps an eye on the squirrels. She has specific predatory habits. But when the North West wind begins to blow, she turns into the wind and takes several minutes to think about the change that coming.

I have also observed the deer as I drive to St. Charles. During the summer the deer are quicker

to skitter across the road. As the North West begins to blow, they stop and turn into the wind. In my rear

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view mirror I observe that the deer spend time thinking about the change that is coming.

I suggest that all of us face the winter winds. I suggest that we face the current challenges that surround us: The world economy; the issue of corporate greed and corporate power as opposed to democratic power; the emerging Arab world; and the debt crisis of Europe. I suggest that change is in the air and that we will need Christ as our companion, our mentor, our peace maker, and our Savior. I suggest that we face the winds of change knowing that there is an unchangeable power Who wants only for our good. Once we sense that Christ is there, in the winds of change, while He himself is changeless, we attain a certain confidence to take the next steps. But start first by facing the wind.

So we pray: *Lord Jesus, help us to appreciate the arrival of Your presence among us. Your*

*presence is in Your Word, in Your Eucharist, and in each of us; help us to appreciate Your presence at*

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*Christmas Time and at the End Time and we shall be saved. In your name we pray for You live forever and ever. Amen.*

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