

ADVENT

Latin, *adventus* = “coming”

December 1 to 24, 1013

This season of joyful expectation has a twofold character: it prepares for the commemoration of the Incarnation celebrated during the Christmas season, and it looks forward to

Christ’s Second Coming.

**At the centre of the
to whom the Angel said,
for you have found favor
“Behold, I am the
May it be done to me**



Luke 2:26

**season of Advent is Mary
“Do not be afraid, Mary,
with God....” Mary said,
handmaid of the Lord,
according to your word.”**

Some thoughts to ponder:

Are you making plans for Christmas? How do they include Jesus?

Year over year many families, and individuals plan dinners, gift exchange and perhaps even a vacation. That’s a good thing. However many tend to forget whose birthday it is. After all, it’s not about us; it’s about HIM –Jesus- who came to be one of us.

Advent is a time to reflect, and prepare with the intercession of Mary for the coming of Jesus. One ideal way to guide us in this preparation is to meditate on the movement of the HAIL MARY. In this prayer we acknowledge who Mary becomes at the Incarnation – THE MOTHER OF GOD- and ask her to pray for us, “...now and at the hour of our death.”

Mary’s heart, joined to her Son, is full of unconditional love for ALL of us and she wants us to be joined to Him at Christmas time and always.

CHRISTMAS = CHRIST WITH US

Let us use this time of Advent to welcome Jesus with an open heart, like Mary did and not be afraid because we too can “find favor with God”.

Fr. John Bertão

