



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

2323 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 542-6984

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Rev. Balasunder, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
Deacon Mike Heinzelman
Deacon Gary Moore
Deacon Russ Bowden

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:
cathedralresponse@gmail.com

Parish Office Phone	542-6984
Parish Office Fax	542-1621
Religious Education	326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	578-8848
School Office	545-7252
Preschool Office – Sharry Caesare	528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	206-5579

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

WEBSITES

Parish: www.steugenec.com
School: www.steugenesch.org

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: 542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: 710-5094

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary is Monday – Saturday at 7:25 a.m. in the Cathedral

Chaplet of Divine Mercy is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

CATHEDRAL SHOPS

Cathedral Thrift Shop Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Cathedral Books & Gifts Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30-4:30 & Sun 8:30-1:30, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: 542-0250

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – NOVEMBER 27, 2022

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00,
1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
RCIA – PLC – 10:30 am
Coffee Social – PLC – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC (Hope Rm) – 9:30 am
PSR – School – 3:45 pm
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm
Adult Bible Study – PLC – 7:00 pm

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession – Cathedral – 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm
& 6:30 pm (Spanish)

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES

~FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES~

For those not receiving the Christmas mailing, you will find Christmas Flower donation memorial envelopes in the vestibules. **The deadline for loved ones names to be published in the Christmas bulletin is Tuesday, December 13, by 12:00 noon.** Please return your envelopes either to the collection plate by Sunday, December 11th, or to the Parish Office by December 13th. Names from envelopes received after this will be published in subsequent bulletins after Christmas.

~ ADVENT WITH OUR LADY~

All women are invited to join Women of the Word in celebrating an "Advent with Our Lady" brunch on Tuesday, December 6, from 9-11:00 am in the Parish Life Center. There will be a special program by the Marian Sisters.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of 11/13/22

Sunday Donations Received:	\$14,390.
Second Collection: Tuition Assistance Program	\$2,871.

~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

During the entire month of December, all books (excluding used books and those marked 40% off) are 25% off, and all statues (including Nativity sets) are 25% off! Now is the time to buy that statue or Nativity Set that you've been wishing for, or to get those books that you have been meaning to read. Start your Christmas shopping at St. Eugene's early, because only in-stock items qualify for this special sale. The shop is open Wed-Sat, 8:30-4:30 & Sun, 8:30 – 1:30 pm. Call us at: (707) 542-0250.

~CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING~

The Advent season is upon us and Christmas will soon be here! We are in need of volunteers to help decorate the Cathedral for the season. The decorating will take place on Saturday, December 24th, beginning at 8:45 am. The decorating usually takes about two hours to complete. If you think you can lend a hand, please call Barbara at 707-529-1413. Thank you!

~ CHRISTMAS TREE REBATES~

Buy your tree at Kringle's Korner Christmas Trees at the Luther Burbank Center and earn a 15% rebate for St. Eugene's. Green rebate cards are in the vestibules. Turn in the card to Kringle's when you buy your tree. If you don't have a card or forget to take a card with you, just tell your sales clerk that you are from St. Eugene's and want to participate in the rebate program. The parish uses the rebates to help offset the cost of church Christmas greenery.

SECOND COLLECTION INFORMATION

~ NO SECOND COLLECTION~

This weekend, November 26 & 27, there is no Second Collection. Also, there will be no collection next weekend, December 3 & 4.

~ST. EUGENE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL~

For those parents who may be thinking about a change of school for their children to a more faith-focused, authentically Catholic School, St. Eugene Cathedral School is open and ready to help! We offer tours, no appointment necessary, every month, with the next one being on December 9 at 9:00 am. Please check us out at: www.steugenesch.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	November 26
8:00 am	Magda O. Skikos, living
4:30 pm	Benigno & Ruperta Marapao, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Santiago Rodriguez, deceased
Sunday	November 27
7:30 am	All Souls in Purgatory
9:00 am	Gwendolyn Carda, deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	Mary & Montford Robinson, deceased
1:30 pm (EF)	All Souls in Purgatory
5:30 pm	Epifanio, Jr. & Clinia Marapao, deceased
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Lisa Tran, living
Monday	November 28
6:45 am	Juana Maldonado, deceased
8:00 am	Roberto M. Marapao, deceased
Tuesday	November 29
6:45 am	Juana Maldonado, deceased
8:00 am	Frank Ellis, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	The Goslovich Family, living & deceased
Wednesday	November 30
6:45 am	Familia Jimenez-Garcia, living
8:00 am	Juliana & Gavino Magsayo, deceased
9:20 am (School)	Neal Mahall, deceased
Thursday	December 1
6:45 am	Thomas Webb, deceased
8:00 am	Douglas, Marapao & Masalta Families, living & deceased
Friday	December 2
6:45 am	Familia Jimenez-Garcia, living
8:00 am	Amada & Mateo Masellones, deceased
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Lisa Tran, living
7:00 pm (Sp)	Ricardo Olvera, Galvan, deceased
Saturday	December 3
8:00 am	In honor of and in reparation for the offences against the Immaculate Heart of Mary & the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living & deceased members of the Russell & Rinaldi Families.
4:30 pm	Scott & Ann Webb, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Gabriel Olvera, living

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales, Nick Sidjakov, Sandi Picconi, Margaret Keifer and Joan Cosgrove.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~HOLY HOUR EVENING RETREAT~

On Friday, December 2, at 6:00 pm, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cotati, located at 150 St. Joseph Way, will offer a Holy Hour Evening Retreat. There will be: Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary and Benediction accompanied by Gregorian Chant. Confessions will be heard. Holy Fellowship afterward! Go to www.stjosemaria.info to learn more.

~RORATE MASS~

A Rorate Mass is a beautiful, ancient Advent custom, whereby Mass is celebrated, illuminated only by candlelight, usually before Dawn. The Mass is a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary and so is celebrated in white, rather than Advent purple. Rorate is the first word of the Introit chant for a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin celebrated in Advent. There is also a beautiful Advent Gregorian Chant hymn that uses this text that comes from Isaiah 14. In a time before electricity, a pre-dawn Mass for the workers was celebrated entirely by candlelight. Come join us in the Mass of our ancestors on Saturday, December 17, at 5:30 am. This is a Latin Mass.

~EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL RETREAT~

A Eucharistic Revival Retreat entitled, "Jesus, Light of the World," will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Mendocino from December 27 - January 1. Say goodbye to 2022 and start 2023 off right by learning more about the great love that Jesus has for YOU, expressed in the Holy Eucharist. Conferences will be led by Dr. Anthony Lilles, of St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and Fr. Robert Torczynski, former Carthusian Monk and current Pastor of St. Anthony's. There's no fee for the retreat, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more information about the retreat, please text or call Fr. Robert at 936-203-0572. Accommodations will be at The Hill House Inn, which runs about \$120 per room/per night. Please call them at, 707-937-0554 to reserve a room.

SAVE THE DATE

~PRIESTLY ORDINATION~

On **Monday, December 12, at 11:00 am**, His Excellency, Bishop Robert Vasa, will ordain Deacon Gabriel Sanchez-Navarro to the Holy Priesthood here at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. The ordination will be followed by a reception in the Msgr. Becker Center. Because December 12 is also the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fr. Sanchez-Navarro will be offering a Spanish Mass (his first Mass) at 4:30 pm on this same day. There will be a reception in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe immediately following Mass in the Msgr. Becker Center.

The bulletin submission deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. We reserve the right to edit or omit items. E-mail items to: office@steuigenes.com.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

~FROM THE PASTOR~

On this First Sunday of Advent, we note that our Second reading and our Gospel reading tell us to be vigilant. To be vigilant means to be on the lookout, to be watchful, to be alert. Why is this so important? There are several reasons. First and foremost, we must always be alert and on our guard against the devil and his temptations. He wants nothing more than to catch us off guard and lead us away from God. He also loves nothing more than catching us in a sudden death while in a state of mortal sin, so that we cannot repent and return God before leaving this world. Secondly, we must be mindful and attentive to the fact that the celebration of the First Coming of the Lord, Christmas Day, is on the horizon. Were it not for this day occurring 2,000 years ago, we would not have the hope of redemption and everlasting life with Jesus. Finally, we must be alert for the Second Coming of the Lord. We do not know when this will occur, therefore we must always be ready. Let's first take a look at an article by Fr. Paul Scalia on the topic of vigilance, then something from Dom Gueranger .

BE VIGILANT

~WAKE UP CALL~

"Lord Bernard invited Francis of Assisi to stay the night at his house. He wanted to test him. He intended to see if Francis' reputation for holiness was legitimate. What he saw changed his life. As soon as Francis thought Bernard was asleep, he got out of bed. Lifting his hands and looking up to heaven, he prayed, "My God, and my all!" And so he spent the entire night in prayer. Having witnessed this, Lord Bernard gave up his wealth and immediately became St. Francis' first and most devoted companion. The night prayers of St. Francis converted Lord Bernard because they revealed the vigilance of his heart. They showed him to be a true Christian, obedient to Christ's command: Be vigilant at all times" (Lk 21:36). To be vigilant means to be both awake and watchful. Our Lord gives it as a command, because vigilance takes effort – it must be deliberately chosen and cultivated. And vigilance is constant; it is not an occasional, every now and then activity anymore than following Christ is a part-time job. We must be vigilant "at all times.

~MORAL DROWSINESS~

In the moral life, this means vigilance against sin and temptation. We know that physical drowsiness can sometimes be life threatening (on highways, for example). But our Lord calls attention to the greater danger of moral drowsiness: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy" (Lk 21:34). We fall into serious sin not because we desire to be evil, but because we grow drowsy; we lower our guard and allow sin and temptation to overtake us. Perhaps we would better appreciate the need for vigilance if we recalled more often that the enemy never sleeps. "Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Pt 5:8). We must constantly watch for the traps he tirelessly sets for our souls.

~NOBLE STRUGGLE~

We can avoid moral drowsiness by simple measures, such as a daily examination of conscience and regular confession. The conscience is like a muscle: it only works well when it is exercised often. On a daily basis we should examine ourselves to see how we have sinned and how we are tempted. Further, the grace of regular (e.g. monthly) confession brings us not only forgiveness for sins, but also the ability to see our sins more clearly and struggle against them more nobly. Ultimately, vigilance is not just guarding against the enemy; it is waiting for the Beloved. Notice that it is our hearts that ought not become drowsy. Love inspires vigilance; we watch for those we love. Moms and dads stay awake at night, waiting and watching for their teenage children to come home because they love them. Even more should we remain awake and watchful out of love for our Lord. Vigilance therefore demands that we carefully guard and tend our love for Christ. Worldly concerns and our own vanity can swiftly and silently extinguish this love. Our Lord rebukes the Church in Ephesus for precisely this failing: "I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first" (Rev 2:4). The ancient Romans believed that if the sacred fire in the temple of Vesta ever died, then Rome would fall. We should view our souls in a similar way: once the fire of love weakens and dies within us, then the soul is set to fall – or has already fallen. If the world has not been convinced of the truth of Christ, perhaps it is because we have not given a convincing example of

vigilance. St. Francis converted Lord Bernard through his vigil of prayer. Especially as we approach Christmas, may our joyful waiting likewise draw souls to Christ. By Fr. Paul Scalia, www.liturgicalatina.org/lityear/

THE MYSTERY OF ADVENT

~DOM PROSPER GUERANGER~

"If we would penetrate into the profound mystery which occupies the mind of the Church during this season, we find that this mystery of the coming, or *Advent*, of Jesus is at once simple and threefold. It is simple, for it is the one same Son of God that is coming; it is threefold, because He comes at three different times and in three different ways."

~HIS COMING IS THREE-FOLD~

"In the first coming," says St. Bernard, "He comes in the flesh and in weakness; in the second, He comes in spirit and in power; in the third, He comes in glory and in majesty; and the second coming is the means whereby we pass from the first to the third." [Fifth sermon for Advent]. This, then, is the mystery of Advent. Let us now listen to the explanation of this threefold visit of Christ, given to us by Peter of Blois, in his third Sermon *de Adventu*: "There are three comings of our Lord; **the first in the flesh, the second in the soul, the third at the judgement.**

- **The first was at midnight**, according to those words of the Gospel: At midnight there was a cry made, Lo the Bridegroom cometh! But this first coming is long since past, for Christ has been seen on the earth and has conversed among men.

- **We are now in the second coming**, provided only we are such as that He may thus come to us; for He has said that if we love him, He will come unto us and will take up His abode with us. So that this second coming is full of uncertainty to us; for who, save the Spirit of God, knows them that are of God?

- **As for the third coming**, it is most certain that it will be, most uncertain when it will be; for nothing is more sure than death, and nothing less sure than the hour of death. When they shall say, peace and security, says the apostle, then shall sudden destruction come upon them, as the pains upon her that is with child, and they shall not escape. So that *the first coming was humble and hidden, the second is mysterious and full of love, the third will be majestic and terrible. In His first coming, Christ was judged by men unjustly; in His second, He renders us just by His grace; in His third, He will judge all*

things with justice. In His first, a lamb; in His last, a lion; in the one between the two, the tenderest of friends.' [*De Adventu*, Sermon III.]

~HIS THIRD COMING~

[But] The day of this His last coming to her will be a day of terror. The Church frequently trembles at the very thought of that awful judgement, in which all mankind is to be tried. She calls it 'a day of wrath, on which, as David and the Sibyl have foretold, the world will be reduced to ashes; a day of weeping and of fear.' Not that she fears for herself, since she knows that this day will for ever secure for her the crown, as being the bride of Jesus; but her maternal heart is troubled at the thought that, on the same day, so many of her children will be on the left hand of the Judge, and, having no share with the elect, will be bound hand and foot, and cast into the darkness, where there shall be everlasting weeping and gnashing of teeth. This is the reason why the Church, in the liturgy of Advent, so frequently speaks of the coming of Christ as a terrible coming, and selects from the Scriptures those passages which are most calculated to awaken a salutary fear in the mind of such of her children as may be sleeping the sleep of sin. This, then, is the threefold mystery of Advent. For entire article, go to: <http://www.liturgicalatina.org/lityear/advent/advent2.htm>



~POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II~

"The liturgy of Advent helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously."

MI FE CATOLICA

~DEL PASTOR~

~PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO~

En este primer domingo de Adviento, observamos que nuestra segunda lectura y nuestra lectura del Evangelio nos dicen que estemos atentos. Estar atentos significa estar al acecho, estar vigilantes, estar alertas. ¿Por qué es tan importante? Hay varias razones. En primer lugar, debemos estar siempre alerta y en guardia contra el diablo y sus tentaciones. Lo único que quiere es pillarnos desprevenidos y alejarnos de Dios. Tampoco le gusta nada más que atraparnos en una muerte súbita mientras estamos en estado de pecado mortal, para que no podamos arrepentirnos y volver a Dios antes de dejar este mundo. En segundo lugar, debemos estar atentos y conscientes de que la celebración de la Primera Venida del Señor, el día de Navidad, está en el horizonte. Si no fuera porque este día ocurrió hace 2,000 años, no tendríamos la esperanza de la redención y la vida eterna con Jesús. Por último, debemos estar atentos a la Segunda Venida del Señor. No sabemos cuándo ocurrirá, por lo tanto debemos estar siempre preparados. Veamos primero un artículo del Padre Paul Scalia sobre el tema de la vigilancia, y luego algo de Dom Gueranger .

SEA VIGILANTE

~LLAMADA DE DESPERTAR~

"El Señor Bernardo invitó a Francisco de Asís a pasar la noche en su casa. Quería ponerlo a prueba. Pretendía ver si la reputación de santidad de Francisco era legítima. Lo que vio cambió su vida. Tan pronto como Francisco pensó que Bernardo estaba dormido, se levantó de la cama. Levantando las manos y mirando al cielo, rezó: "¡Mi Dios y mi todo!". Y así pasó toda la noche en oración. Habiendo presenciado esto, el Señor Bernardo renunció a sus riquezas e inmediatamente se convirtió en el primer y más devoto compañero de San Francisco. Las oraciones nocturnas de San Francisco convirtieron al Señor Bernardo porque revelaron la vigilancia de su corazón. Le mostraron que era un verdadero cristiano, obediente al mandato de Cristo: Velad en todo momento" (Lc 21,36). Estar atento significa estar despierto y vigilante. El Señor lo da como un mandato, porque la vigilancia requiere un esfuerzo: debe ser elegida y cultivada deliberadamente. Y la vigilancia es constante; no es una actividad ocasional, de vez en cuando, como tam-

co el seguimiento de Cristo es un trabajo a tiempo parcial. Debemos estar atentos "en todo momento".

~SOMNOLENCIA MORAL~

En la vida moral, esto significa vigilancia contra el pecado y la tentación. Sabemos que la somnolencia física puede ser a veces una amenaza para la vida (en las carreteras, por ejemplo). Pero nuestro Señor llama la atención sobre el mayor peligro de la somnolencia moral: "Tened cuidado de que vuestro corazón no se adormezca" (Lc 21,34). Caemos en pecados graves no porque deseemos ser malos, sino porque nos adormecemos; bajamos la guardia y dejamos que el pecado y la tentación nos alcancen. Tal vez apreciaríamos mejor la necesidad de vigilancia si recordáramos más a menudo que el enemigo nunca duerme. "Vuestro adversario, el diablo, merodea como un león rugiente en busca de alguien a quien devorar" (1 Pe 5,8). Debemos vigilar constantemente las trampas que él pone incansablemente para nuestras almas.

~LUCHA NOBLE~

Podemos evitar la somnolencia moral con medidas sencillas, como el examen de conciencia diario y la confesión regular. La conciencia es como un músculo: sólo funciona bien cuando se ejercita con frecuencia. Diariamente debemos examinarnos para ver cómo hemos pecado y cómo somos tentados. Además, la gracia de la confesión periódica (por ejemplo, mensual) nos aporta no sólo el perdón de los pecados, sino también la capacidad de ver nuestros pecados con más claridad y luchar contra ellos con más nobleza. En definitiva, la vigilancia no es sólo protegerse del enemigo; es esperar al Amado. Fijaos en que es nuestro corazón el que no debe adormecerse. El amor inspira la vigilancia; velamos por los que amamos. Las madres y los padres permanecen despiertos por la noche, esperando y vigilando que sus hijos adolescentes vuelvan a casa, porque los aman. Más aún debemos permanecer despiertos y vigilantes por amor a nuestro Señor. La vigilancia, por tanto, exige que guardemos y cuidemos cuidadosamente nuestro amor a Cristo. Las preocupaciones mundanas y nuestra propia vanidad pueden apagar rápida y silenciosamente este amor. El Señor reprende a la Iglesia de Éfeso precisamente por este defecto: "Te lo reprocho: has perdido el amor que tenías al principio" (Ap 2,4). Los antiguos romanos creían que si el fuego sagrado del templo de Vesta se apagaba, Roma caería.

Deberíamos considerar nuestras almas de manera similar: una vez que el fuego del amor se debilita y muere dentro de nosotros, entonces el alma está destinada a caer - o ya ha caído. Si el mundo no se ha convencido de la verdad de Cristo, quizá sea porque no hemos dado un ejemplo convincente de vigilancia. San Francisco convirtió al Señor Bernardo a través de su vigilia de oración. Especialmente ahora que se acerca la Navidad, que nuestra alegría esperanza atraiga también a las almas hacia Cristo.

EL MISTERIO DE ADVIENTO

~DOM PROSPER GUERANGER~

"Si penetramos en el profundo misterio que ocupa la mente de la Iglesia durante este tiempo, encontramos que este misterio de la venida, o Adviento, de Jesús es a la vez simple y triple. Es simple, porque es el mismo Hijo de Dios el que viene; es triple, porque viene en tres momentos diferentes y de tres maneras distintas".

~SU VENIDA ES TRIPLE~

"En la primera venida -dice San Bernardo- viene en carne y en debilidad; en la segunda, viene en espíritu y en poder; en la tercera, viene en gloria y en majestad; y la segunda venida es el medio por el que pasamos de la primera a la tercera". (Quinto sermón de Adviento). Este es, pues, el misterio del Adviento. Escuchemos ahora la explicación de esta triple visita de Cristo, que nos da Pedro de Blois, en su tercer Sermón *de Adviento*: Hay tres venidas de nuestro Señor: **la primera en la carne, la segunda en el alma, la tercera en el juicio.**

* **La primera fue a medianoche**, según las palabras del Evangelio: A medianoche se oyó un grito: ¡Aquí viene el Esposo! Pero esta primera venida hace tiempo que pasó, pues Cristo ha sido visto en la tierra y ha conversado entre los hombres.

* **Ahora estamos en la segunda venida**, con tal de que seamos tales que Él pueda venir a nosotros; porque Él ha dicho que si lo amamos, Él vendrá a nosotros y tomará su morada con nosotros. De modo que esta segunda venida está llena de incertidumbre para nosotros; porque ¿quién, salvo el Espíritu de Dios, conoce a los que son de Dios?

* **En cuanto a la tercera venida**, es muy cierto que será, pero muy incierto cuándo será; porque nada es más seguro que la muerte, y nada menos seguro que la hora de la muerte. Cuando digan, paz y seguridad, dice el apóstol, entonces vendrá sobre ellos una destrucción repentina, como los dolores de la que está encinta, y no escapan. Así que *la primera venida fue humilde y oculta, la segunda es misteriosa y llena de amor, la tercera será majestuosa y terrible.*

En su primera venida, Cristo fue juzgado por los hombres injustamente; en su segunda, nos hace justos por su gracia; en su tercera, juzgará a todas las cosas con justicia. En la primera, un cordero; en la última, un león; en la que está entre las dos, el más tierno de los amigos". [De Adventu, Sermón III.]

~SU TERCERA VENIDA~

[El día de su última venida a ella será un día de terror. La Iglesia tiembla con frecuencia al pensar en ese terrible juicio, en el que toda la humanidad será juzgada. Ella lo llama 'un día de ira, en el cual, como David y la Sibila han predicho, el mundo será reducido a cenizas; un día de llanto y de temor'. No es que tema por sí misma, pues sabe que ese día le asegurará para siempre la corona, por ser la esposa de Jesús; pero su corazón maternal se inquieta al pensar que, en ese mismo día, tantos de sus hijos estarán a la izquierda del Juez y, al no tener parte con los elegidos, serán atados de pies y manos, y arrojados a las tinieblas, donde será eterno el llanto y el crujir de dientes. Esta es la razón por la que la Iglesia, en la liturgia de Adviento, habla con tanta frecuencia de la venida de Cristo como una venida terrible, y selecciona de las Escrituras aquellos pasajes que están más calculados para despertar un temor saludable en la mente de aquellos de sus hijos que puedan estar durmiendo el sueño del pecado. Este es, pues, el triple misterio del Adviento. Para ver el artículo completo, vaya a: <http://www.liturgialatina.org/lityear/advent/advent2.htm>



~PAPA SAN JUAN PABLO II~

"La liturgia del Adviento nos ayuda a comprender plenamente el valor y el significado del misterio de la Navidad. No se trata sólo de conmemorar el acontecimiento histórico, ocurrido hace unos 2,000 años en una pequeña aldea de Judea. Por el contrario, es necesario comprender que toda nuestra vida debe ser un "adviento", una espera vigilante de la venida final de Cristo. Para predisponer nuestra mente a acoger al Señor que, como decimos en el Credo, un día vendrá a juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos, debemos aprender a reconocerlo como presente en los acontecimientos de la vida cotidiana. Por eso, el Adviento es, por así decirlo, un intenso entrenamiento que nos orienta decididamente hacia aquel que ya vino, que vendrá y que viene continuamente".

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