

Come Let Us Adore Him – I



We begin the Season of Advent by lighting a candle to represent Christ, light of the world. Advent comes from the Latin word for a "coming". Advent means that the Lord is coming. The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks to the future when Christ will come again (second coming), and it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian. This season is a time for preparation in which we each try in our own way to become closer to and more like our savior Jesus Christ.

Each candle reminds us of Christ's message: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, and that we are preparing for something very special.



During the Mass, the priest speaks these words as he holds the communion host, "...He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you". When the priest says "this is my body", and "this is the cup of my blood" it is at that instant when, through the miracle of transubstantiation, the bread and wine which we offer as the bloodless sacrifice to our Lord truly become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. It is His true Presence in the form of bread and wine. It is Christ.

During the Christmas Season, we will sing O Come, let us adore Him, O Come, let us adore Him, O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. At every Mass, we worship and adore Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

"In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us... Receiving the Eucharist means adoring Him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy." (*Pope Benedict XVI*)

Another special way Jesus is present with us is in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacred Host is placed in a gold vessel (Monstrance) for exposition (viewing) of the Blessed Sacrament. Here in His humility, hidden in the simple form of bread, Jesus waits for you. Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist helps us focus our prayers on Jesus Christ, who is the Blessed Sacrament.



When we want to meet with one of our friends, we both need to fit it into our schedule so we have time to visit, see and talk with each other. Talking on the phone is nice, but the whole experience is different and much more meaningful when we are physically present with each other. With Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, He waits for you to come and visit with Him. Prayer in His presence takes on a whole new dimension.

Jesus calls us to spend time with Him - To visit with Him - To bring ourselves as we are to Him. He wants us to come and be with Him. "He gives Himself to us and we respond by giving ourselves to Him... Adoration means entering the depths of our hearts in communion with the Lord, who makes Himself bodily present in the Eucharist. In the monstrance, He always entrusts Himself to us and asks us to be united with His Presence, with His risen Body." (*Pope Benedict XVI*)

Here at St. Patrick Parish we have the special grace of having the Blessed Sacrament available to us in the Adoration Chapel for perpetual Adoration (24 hours every day). The Church teaches that the Blessed Sacrament is not to be left unattended when exposed.

The season of Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Catholic community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas, but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful; He will not find us asleep.

Why not come during the week to visit with Jesus and spend some time talking and listening to Him. It will provide you a sense of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that cannot be described in words.

Eucharistic Miracle of AVIGNON

FRANCE, 1433



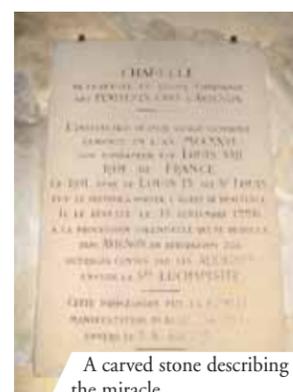
On November 30, 1433 a small church run by the Gray Penitents of the Franciscan Order was exposing a consecrated Host for Perpetual Adoration. After days of rain the rivers swelled, and surprisingly, Avignon was submerged. By boat, two friars of the Order succeeded in reaching the church where the Holy Sacrament had been left for adoration. When they entered the church, they saw that the waters were divided to the right and to the left, leaving the altar and the Sacrament perfectly dry.



Stained glass window inside the church, depicting the miracle



The Altar where the miracle took place



A carved stone describing the miracle



Ancient engraving of the miracle of Avignon



Stained glass window of the Chapel



The Eucharistic miracle of Avignon occurred in the Church of the Holy Cross, home of the Gray Penitents of the Franciscan Order, whose founding goes back to the times of pious King Louis VIII. At the time of this miracle, Avignon was considered the center of Christendom, and the city's "Palais des Papes" was home to a series of seven popes.

After several days of heavy rain, the Sorgue and Rhône Rivers rose steadily and reached a dangerous height. Finally, on November 30, 1433, Avignon, was flooded. The friars were certain that their little church, which stood along the Sorgue, had been destroyed by the raging waters. Fearing that the Blessed Sacrament, which was exposed for Perpetual Adoration, had been swept away, the head of the Order and another friar rowed to the

church. Getting there was difficult, but when they finally arrived they found a miracle. Although water around the church was four feet high, a pathway from the entrance of the church to the altar was perfectly dry.

The Sacred Host was unscathed. The pathway from the entrance to the altar called to mind the parting of the Red Sea in the time of Moses, for all along the sides of the church, water steadily rose, but the pathway remained completely dry. Amazed by what they were seeing, the friars had others from their Order come to the church to verify the miracle. The news spread rapidly, and many people, including those in authority, came to the Church, singing songs of praise and of thanks to the Lord. Several hundred people witnessed this miracle.

Later on, the Gray Penitents determined that the anniversary of the miracle would be celebrated in the church every year on the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. Even today, every November 30th, the brothers reunite at the Chapelle des Pénitents Gris to celebrate the memory of the miracle. Before the blessing of the Holy Sacrament, the brothers perform a sacred chant taken from the Canticle of Moses, which was composed after the parting of the Red Sea: *"I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant... At a breath of your anger the waters piled up, the flowing waters stood like a mound, the flood waters congealed in the midst of the sea... In your mercy you led the people you redeemed; in your strength you guided them to your holy dwelling."* (Exodus 15, 1-18).