

Christ Child wants for His birthday this year, and every year.

As for the second coming of Christ, this repentance is necessary as well in order to prepare us for that momentous event. It must necessarily be that confession is extremely important during Advent. God the Father desires that we properly celebrate the Birth of His Incarnate Son. He gives special graces at this time by means of Our Lord's Blessed Mother. These graces move people to go to confession. People who have been away from confession for a long time hear, so to speak, a little voice of actual grace in their souls. Those who have made bad confession in the past hear it too. Our Lord says in their hearts, "Come to Me! Go to confession! Do not fear. I will help you."

There is nothing to stand in the way of a good confession. There is nothing that the grace of God cannot overcome. All our sins can be forgiven. Our Lord says, "My grace is sufficient for you." If you have been away from confession for a long time, now is the time to go. If you have made a bad confession in the past and never got it straightened out, now is the time to act. It doesn't matter how long you have been away. It doesn't matter how numerous your sins may be. It doesn't matter how horrible they are or how hard it is to confess them. The grace of God is sufficient. The power of the sacrament is as powerful as the Precious Blood of Christ. There is no sin beyond the power of the confessional. There is no shame so great that it should keep you away. Your sins can be washed away and your life can be changed.

All this can be accomplished through the Holy Sacraments instituted by Christ to give grace. This was foretold in the Old Testament and it is fulfilled in the New Testament. "Wash yourselves," God says through the mouth of the prophet Isaias, "...be clean, take away the evil of your devices from my eyes: cease to do perversely, learn to do well: seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge for the fatherless, defend the widow. And then come, saith the Lord: if your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made as white as snow: and if they be red as crimson, they shall be white as wool." (Isaias 1: 16-18) This prophet foretold the forgiveness of sin

and he foretold the birth of the One who would make this possible. He foretold the coming of Christ and the Virgin Birth. He wrote: "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel." (Isaias 7:14) He goes on to say: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: to them that dwelt in the region of the shadow of death, light is risen." (Isaias 9:2) "For a child is born to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace." (Isaias 9:6) "His empire shall be multiplied, and there shall be no end of peace: he shall sit upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom; to establish it and strengthen it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth and for ever..." (Isaias 9:7)

Let us prepare ourselves for Christmas, the anniversary of the birth of Christ. Let us prepare ourselves for His coming at the Particular Judgment, and for His coming at the end of the world. What a great day it shall be, the Day of the Lord, when He comes to judge and to set everything straight! Advent is about the coming of Christ. It is about the first coming of Christ, in obscurity, simplicity and humility. It is also about the second coming of Christ, in power, in glory and in judgment. "His birth at Bethlehem enlightens men until the end of time," while "His return at the last judgment will mark the consignment of the guilty to the flames, and [the] call [of] the just to heaven." (St. Andrew's Missal, p. 10)

With the Apostle John we say, with all our hearts and souls, as we live in this valley of tears and place of trial: "Come, Lord Jesus." (Apocalypse 22:20) Come! Come! O King of kings, Lord of lords, and Prince of the kings of the earth! For the government of the world and of the universe is upon Thy shoulders. Thy name, O Jesus, "shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Father of the world to come, Prince of Peace." Come to us as the little Child of Bethlehem. Come to us in mercy in the Holy Eucharist! Come in glory, to right every wrong and to establish Thy kingdom forever. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!