

Father Roberto Vera Speaks on Advent



On Thursday, December 20th Fr. Roberto Vera spoke to parishioners on what Advent is and what it means to Christians everywhere. The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” a season of preparation. According to Fr. Vera, It is a time for prayer and reconciliation which is represented by the color purple; it has also become the color of Advent, a time for fasting, penance and reconciliation. It is not a coincidence that both Advent and Lent share the purple color.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of

the world. It was not until the Middle-Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. Eventually, the wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are nestled in the evergreen wreath, three purple and one rose colored. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. We begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

Starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas a purple candle is lit the hope that Jesus is coming; the next candle lit represents Faith, and the third Sunday of Advent is rose (pink) because pink symbolizes joy, the joy that Jesus is almost here. The fourth candle represents “Peace on earth and good will toward men.”

During the season of Christmas we become one in God, we are saved, renewed in His love with the Holy Spirit, we have a reason to rejoice.

Thank You Fr. Roberto.