



Advent's Summons: "GET READY!"

When the United States and Russia were at the height of their adversarial relationship, America feared that a nuclear exchange between the two super powers was on the horizon. As a result, many cities in the south in particular installed air raid sirens. Every single day, precisely at noon, the sirens screamed their warning: "Get ready! Be prepared!" And it was amazing how people prepared. Some even built miniature bomb shelters just to be ready. And so through these Sundays of Advent we have heard the plea of John the Baptist: "Get ready! Be prepared!" Of course, John's summons is to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Savior. Have you done that? Are you attending Sunday Mass? Have you attended a daily Mass? Have you been to confession, said the Rosary, or offered morning or evening prayers? In other words, what kind of Advent preparation have you made for the coming Savior?

Advent's Fulfillment: CHRIST WILL COME!

The four Sundays of Advent come to us as a gift, and they have one purpose: to stir our hearts to be ready to welcome the Savior of the world as He is born anew in our hearts. When we come to the Nativity of Our Lord, we can sing with great enthusiasm, "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" The truth is that the dear Lord comes to us each and every day, each time we receive the presence of Christ in the Mass, each time we kneel before the Blessed Sacrament, and each time we invoke the Savior's holy name in prayer and meditation.

The Question to Answer

Have you made room in your heart and in your home for the dear Lord? The very best present that we can offer the Christ who comes among us once again is for the church to be filled to overflowing at the Christmas Eve Masses. As your priest, I must tell you forthrightly. There is only one way that will occur and that is if **YOU** make it happen. I am counting on you to do that for our Savior!

*In His love,
Fr. Craig*