



December 2024

THE ADVENT OF JUSTICE

The word “ADVENT” means “arrival.”

ADVENT is, for Catholics, the first season of the Church year, a period of four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas, the arrival of our God on Earth in the human/divine person of Jesus.

“When Catholics hear the word “incarnation,” most of us think about the birth of Jesus, who personally demonstrated God’s radical unity with humanity. But I want to suggest that the first Incarnation was the moment described in Genesis 1, when God joined in unity with the physical universe and became the light inside of everything. This, I believe, is why light is the subject of the first day of creation.” And this is why the season is filled with LIGHT that shines in houses, on houses, in parks churches and stores. The First Incarnation <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-first-incarnation-2022-12-18/> Richard Rohr

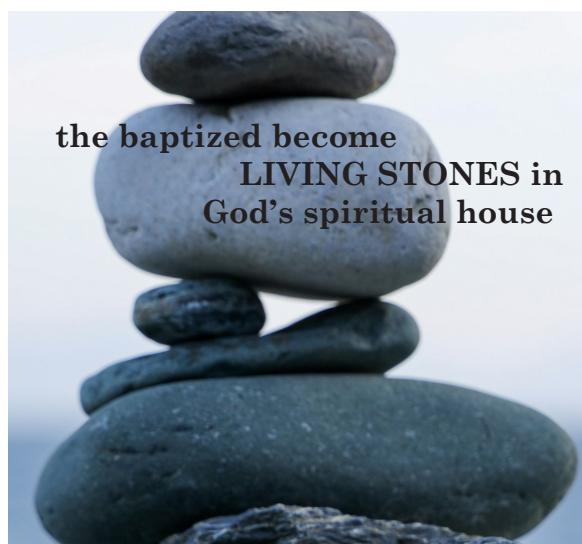
This ADVENT we celebrate another arrival, the **beginning of our JUSTICE Jubilee year** with our call to act with justice which begins at Baptism. It is where we are initiated into the community of the Church, the Body of Christ, profess a vow to work denouncing evil in all its forms, and follow Jesus sharing in his mission.

This sacrament does not mince words, but is quite clear about our responsibility to live out our profession of faith, and to keep the promises we make.

In the one Body of Christ, all the members share “a common dignity so that no inequality arising from race or nationality, social condition or sex” exists, for all are one in Christ. (Lumen Gentium [Dogmatic Constitution on the Church], no. 32). www.usccb.org/resources/Sacraments-and-Social-Mission.pdf

Incorporated into Christ’s Body Sent on Christ’s mission

One in Jesus the Christ, his mission becomes our mission which he expresses in the



the baptized become
LIVING STONES in
God’s spiritual house

words of Isaiah 61: 2 *“The Spirit of God is upon Me, because I have been anointed to preach good tidings to the oppressed; to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

Baptism’s Responsibilities:

- Baptism is not merely a ritual; it carries responsibilities. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the baptized become “living stones” in God’s spiritual house, sharing in Christ’s priesthood, prophetic mission, and royal mission.
- Baptism holds profound significance in the Catholic Church, intertwining our discipleship in Jesus Christ with a call to justice. From the time the person enters the covenant community of the church, as an infant or as an adult, the baptized is expected to affirm the power of God revealed in Christ: the same power that works against domination, violence, and all systems of hatred. These are life-long vows that we learn to keep through the *means of grace, discipleship and with the community of faith.*
- The scriptural readings often depict a future of peace and justice. Isaiah and the psalmist envision a world where wolves and lambs coexist harmoniously, emphasizing justice as the core of God’s kingdom.
- Psalm 72 proclaims that “justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.”

The king’s son is called to have pity for the lowly and save the lives of the poor.

- However, John the Baptist introduces a different perspective. He emphasizes that justice and peace require active effort: “Produce good

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RESOURCES:

<https://christogenesis.org/a-christmas-prayer/print/catholicphilly.com/2022/01/catholic-spirituality/as-with-jesus-work-for-justice>

<https://www.dor.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2017/12/Baptism.pdf>