

## Advent

By now, we Christians should know that our liturgical year of the calendar of the Church begins on the first Sunday of Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday. The civil year, the ordinary calendar, begins on January 1 and ends with December 31. Let us focus our thoughts on the Advent Candles that we light. That is because the Church calendar recalls and celebrates salvation history. The liturgical year remembers the life of Jesus. The life of Jesus begins with the announcement of his birth and our preparation to welcome his birth ... his suffering death, and resurrection ... his sending of the Holy Spirit ... and how the Spirit helps us (the Church), his followers to continue the works of Christ on our world today ... until Christ becomes the Ruler of the Universe. That's our liturgical or Church year. Note the role of light and fire during this liturgical year. This year begins with the Christmas star .. then the Easter Candle .. then the fire of Pentecost! The whole year in enlightened! Our liturgical year is a journey that we make with Christ. Hopefully during this journey, we ourselves become more Christ-like and that the world becomes better because of the Christian way we live our lives. Every year, we are invited to become better Christians.

The gospel passage of Year A talks of mindless eating and drinking, being absorbed and obsessed with the concerns of everyday. The Lord says: look, you are going on a journey, you are on your way to a new world, but you act as if you do not want to move and refuse to go anywhere. The people of Noah's days refused to move when they were warned. They went on with their normal activities. In his letter to the Romans, Paul again talks of a mindless, careless, licentious, drunken, promiscuous way of life. All these kinds of behavior make us lose our way.

My dear friends, receive then this advent candle light. Let it light your way through out this year. We are entering into a new year which God blesses us with of our Lord. We are really and truly living in the year that belongs to the Lord. It is the Lord who is inviting us, giving us a new chance to make ourselves and the world better. Go well .. Go with God .. and God bless you on your journey, two-thousand and twenty-three in the year of the Lord.