



OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

November 24, 2021

Three Days in Advent

Advent is a season of hope, waiting, expectation, promise, and fulfillment. It calls us to optimism about our God: God's gift of salvation, and God's concern for us and presence with us in our daily living. As we know, there are large challenges (pandemics, to name just one) and small ones (impatience for example) that can rob us of those Advent gifts. I believe that these next three days can be a microcosm of Advent living.

Today is the feast of St. Nicholas. He is a prominent, revered figure in the Eastern Church. He is noteworthy for his kindness in many small ways to children, his care of women to help turn from a wayward life, and his charitable life. Advent points to a glorious future when God will bring about the fullness and realization of God's kingdom. As disciples, we are called to respond to the needs of one another in loving service on a daily basis. Often that loving service is done in many small, ordinary words and actions. As St. Francis de Sales reminds us, "There is nothing small in the service of God."

Tomorrow, we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entrance into World War II. We also see the power of evil and the injustices and destruction our words and actions can cause. Advent calls us to a *metanoia*, a turning around, and change of heart to assure that we eliminate any hate, violence, and destructive words, thoughts, and actions from our daily lives.

Wednesday is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and Mary's trust and generosity in saying yes to God's plan and her role in salvation history as the Mother of God. Her yes changed the world forever. Our "yeses" have the power to give life to those whom we love and encounter each day. May our response be in gratitude to God and generosity to others.

Two days show the power of love and response to God in loving service. They show our trust and gratitude to God for the gift of salvation. One day reminds us of the power of evil and the destructive power our words and actions can have. Let's try to live day 1 and 3 as

fully as possible. Happy Advent living!

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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Moving Forward Together in the Service of God

Fr. Matt sends a regular "Musings" email to share his thoughts with the OLGC Community. You're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in these messages. Please add frhillyard@olgcva.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

If you know someone who would like to be added to the list have them email communications@olgcva.org.

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