

# TRINITY NEWS

November 28, 2010



## Advent Sunday – God Gives Us A Future

I sometimes wonder why Christmas is more a time of reflection than New Year's Day. It is not usually January 1<sup>st</sup> that causes the heart to reflect on its pain and joy, but Christmas. It may be that the Christ Child always brings fresh hopes and new dreams that stir past memories as well as the hushed sounds of joy at new birth. We may feel guilty about fresh hopes and dreams because someone much beloved is no longer physically present. We may also remember past Christmas gatherings, gifts exchanged and family around a table decked with food and decorations. Without expectation, life loses its savour. Without hope, our soul withers and pines for refreshment and peace.

The texts for Advent resonate with the imagery of what is to come. The prophet Isaiah prophesied confidently about the "days to come". The prophetic vision at Isaiah 2:1-5 came true in part when Christ walked over the dusty tracks of Palestine, but the days when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" are not yet fulfilled. It was a prophecy based on the promises of God. Only God knows the future. We cannot predict it. But we can live in the present so deeply that it prepares us for the future.

Strictly speaking, there is no such thing as a future, only another 'now' that has yet to be entered and lived. I cannot think of anything worse than knowing every detail of the future. Life is an adventure, not a crystal ball. People are often amazed when perceptive people can tell them the details of their past. But after all, that is a completely useless piece of information. We already know about it, though we may have accidentally or deliberately forgotten some of the details! I am more interested in perceptive people who can help me to truly be in the present and live it to the full.

Christ used Jewish "apocalypse now" language sparingly, and he always attached it to practical outcomes. He talked very little about the 'furniture' of heaven or the temperature of hell. His future predictions were always driven by the needs of the present. He probed very deeply into the human condition and emerged with a buoyant trust in God. The only 'future' that really concerned him was the continuing presence of God, the reign of God, on earth and in heaven. He summed it up in the Sermon on the Mount: "Strive first for the kingdom of God....So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:33-34).

That is wonderful advice, and the clue to being ready for all that comes tomorrow and the day after....

-Bishop Arthur Jones

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**Next week's readings:**

**Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 2; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12**

**TO PLAN:**

Today.

- Sunday school, 9:15

Nov. 29, Monday.

- HOLIDAY. Office closed.

Nov. 30, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am

Dec. 2, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel
- Bible Study, 7:00 pm @ the Malpass Residence (Apt 7-C Twin Towers, West Tower, Ayala Ave)

Dec. 4, Saturday.

- Christmas Pageant rehearsal, 10am

**WOMEN'S BAZAAR 2010**

Nov. 28, 8am-6pm with

**RAFFLE DRAW @ 4pm.**

Contact Persons:

Patricia Dalmas

&amp;

Cecile Katigbak

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ema Duhaylongsod, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Divinagracia Benitez, Les Vye-Parminter, Wilson Teh, Rey del Rosario, Jose Songco

	<b>Last Sunday</b>	<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>Proportionate Budget</b>	<b>2010 Budget</b>
<b>Pledge</b>	P154,100.00	P3,550,691.80	P3,525,000.00	P3,900,000
<b>Loose Plate</b>	P15,640.00	P77,281.73	P849,615.38	P940,000

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at [edisonyap@gmail.com](mailto:edisonyap@gmail.com)