



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent (C)

Jer 33:14-16

1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

## God's Promise of Real Treasure

If anyone can keep a promise, it's God. His very nature is to be faithful to his promises and to fulfill all he has foretold. His promise after the fall of Adam and Eve was to send us a Redeemer, to bring peace to Jerusalem, and to reestablish his reign on earth. The prophets continually reminded the chosen race of God's fidelity and, although things looked far from their fulfillment, they insisted that God is faithful and would deliver.

Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise, comes in two phases. First, by coming as a baby in Bethlehem. This Incarnation and his arrival as Savior

is what we're preparing to receive this Advent. Extra prayers, generous giving of your time, and special sacrifices are the best way to ready your soul for his coming.

Jesus' Second Coming will bring to completion what he started on the cross. His glorious return, which all of creation will foretell in those last days, is when the full effects of Christ's victory on the cross will be seen at the judgment of all living creatures.

The advice for all Christians in this period of waiting and preparation is to keep watch; to not allow the delay to lead us to drowsiness. Don't let the vanities of this world dazzle us, for in time, they will become dust.

God promises real treasures that will endure forever, and as we know, God keeps his promises.

— Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *Vanitas Vanitatum*, 1967-1968  
Artist: Gregorio Sciltian  
Location: Vatican Museums



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### *For Reflection*

*Am I preparing my soul for Christ's coming by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?*

*Have I settled on which concrete acts I will do?*

*[Jesus said,] "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life."*

*Luke 21:34*