



# EUCHALET



6 December 2015

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year C

## NATIONAL AIDS SUNDAY

### ADVENT: A TIME TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD

We have begun the good work of living the spirit of Advent with trust, hope, and love. Today we are reminded by St. Paul to persevere in this praiseworthy undertaking. John the Baptist is our trusted guide in the all-important work of our spiritual renewal in preparation for the commemoration of Christ's birth.

And to prepare the way for the Lord is to make straight the winding roads of our moral uncertainties and inconsistencies; to fill up the ravines of our past shortcomings and failings; and to level down the peaks of our pride and arrogance. And as we are engaged in this work of "spiritual landscaping," our love for God and neighbor should increase ever more, that we may be found pure and blameless at the coming of our Lord.

Today, the first Sunday of December, is also National AIDS Sunday. The Church has been at the frontlines of the battle against AIDS, helping and supported by many NGOs alongside the government. But we must all do our share to stop the alarming rise in HIV/AIDS cases that threatens the very foundation of our society: the family. As we try to learn more about this deadly disease and reach out to those who are at risk, let us also remember in this Eucharist the persons living with HIV/AIDS and the ones who are caring for them.



#### INTRODUCTORY RITES



##### Entrance Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)*

**O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

##### Greeting

**P** –The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!  
**All**–And with your spirit!

##### Penitential Act

**P** –As we continue our Advent preparation, with confidence let us acknowledge our need to be

forgiven and to be strengthened by God's grace. *(Pause)*

**All**–I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(And, striking their breast, they say:)* through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; *(Then they continue:)* therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**P** –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**All**–Amen!

**P** –Lord, have mercy!  
**All**–Lord, have mercy!  
**P** –Christ, have mercy!

**All**–Christ, have mercy!

**P** –Lord, have mercy!

**All**–Lord, have mercy!

##### Collect *(Opening Prayer)*

**P** –Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All**–Amen!

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD



**1st Reading**

*Bar 5:1-9*

*The Jews exiled in Babylon were undergoing a severe*

crisis. To them, the prophet Baruch addressed the words of hope we are about to hear. This same message is directed to us today.

**R** –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Baruch

**Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name.**

**For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.**

**Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.**

**Lied away on foot by their enemies they left you, but God will bring them back to you, borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.**

**For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low. And that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.**

**The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.**

The Word of the Lord!

**All–Thanks be to God!**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 126

**R** –*The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!*

*R. M. Velez*



The Lord has done great things



for us; we are filled with joy!

\* **When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.** **R.**

\* **Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.** **R.**

\* **Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.** **R.**

\* **Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.** **R.**

**2nd Reading** Phil 1:4-6,8-11

*Enthused at the wonderful response he got among the faithful of Philippi, St. Paul wrote the memorable hymn of thanks and the petition we hear in today's Second Reading. Let us make our own the prayer of the Apostle.*

**R** –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

**Brothers and sisters:**

**I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.**

The Word of the Lord!

**All–Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation** Lk 3:4,6

**All–Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel** Lk 3:1-6

*In today's text, St. Luke mentions the outstanding political and religious figures of the time to emphasize the historical character of the "Jesus event." What matters most, however, is John's urgent appeal to prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord.*

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All– And with your spirit!**

**P** –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All–Glory to you, O Lord!**

**In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the desert.**

**John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert:**

**"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."**

The Gospel of the Lord!

**All–Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Homily**

**Profession of Faith**

*(Nicene Creed)*

**All–I believe in one God, the Fa-**

ther almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)\* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.\* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

### Prayer of the Faithful

**P** –As we proceed in our Advent pilgrimage, we become ever more aware of the need to prepare the way for the Lord through a thorough personal improvement. Let us ask for his help to do just that as we implore him:

**All**—Lord, purify us!

**C** –For the Church and its leaders: Like John the Baptist, may they successfully dispose the hearts of people to welcome the Lord through their teaching and good example. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For all those who have gone astray in their moral life: May they heed John’s call to repentance in this Advent and bear the fruit of a sincere conversion. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For those who consider themselves better than the rest: May they use their exceptional talents to help the weak in a spirit of service and brotherly solidarity. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For the people devoured by hatred, aggressiveness and greed: May the spirit of the Advent season lead them to lay down their weapons and seek the road to justice and peace. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For persons living with HIV/AIDS: May they find hope in Jesus, in spite of their illness, and be treated with Christ-like love and compassion by the people around them. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For those who risk contracting HIV because their lifestyles go against the teachings of Christ: May they realize that God’s commandments are meant not to stifle them but to protect them and give them a life that is truly free from the enslavement of sin and deceptive pleasures. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For all of us: May the Year of the Eucharist and of the Family help us have a greater appreciation of the importance of the Eucharist in our lives and in strengthening our families. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause)

Let us pray! **R.**

**P** –Lord God, strengthen our frail hearts in clearing a straight path for your Son Jesus. Fill up the valleys of our discouragement, level the cliffs of our pride, and smooth our rough ways.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

**All**—Amen!



### Preparation of the Gifts

**P** –Pray, brethren . . .

**All**—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

### Prayer over the Offerings

**P** –Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All**—Amen!

### Preface of Advent I

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All**—And with your spirit!

**P** –Lift up your hearts!

**All**—We lift them up to the Lord!

**P** –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**All**—It is right and just!

**P** –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**All**—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

### Memorial Acclamation

**P** –The mystery of faith!

**All**—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!



**All**—Our Father . . .

**P** –Deliver us, Lord . . .

**All**—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

### Sign of Peace

### Breaking of the Bread

**All**—Lamb of God . . .

### Communion

**P** —Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All**—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### Communion Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)*

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

### Prayer after Communion

**P** —Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All**—Amen!

## CONCLUDING RITES



**P** —The Lord be with you.

**All**—And with your spirit!

**P** —Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.  
*(Pause)*

May God's grace strengthen and purify you with his forgiveness as you prepare to welcome the Lord Jesus.

**All**—Amen!

**P** —May He fill you with His consolation and hope in all

the difficulties you may encounter.

**All**—Amen!

**P** —May your love for God increase more and more and may you be a blessing to all those you meet.

**All**—Amen!

**P** —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All**—Amen!

**P** —Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

**All**—Thanks be to God!

## The HIV/AIDS Situation in the Philippines

• *Rolando C. delos Reyes II*

How is HIV/AIDS relevant to the modern-day Filipino? Let us reflect on some statistics from the September 2015 Report of the **HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP)**.

- This year, an average of **22 new HIV cases is diagnosed each day**, more than 5 times higher than in 2010. The median age is 28 years old. **More than half** are from the **25-34 year age group**, while **28%** are youth aged **15-24 years old**.
- Of the **5,648 males** diagnosed, **5,447** of them contracted HIV through **sexual contact**. Of those cases, **53%** contracted HIV by **males having sex with males (MSM)**, while **36%** contracted it by **having sex with both males and females**. In contrast, only **238 females** contracted HIV through **sexual contact**, all of them with males.

### Important Things to Know about HIV/AIDS

- HIV is transmitted through **body fluids**, such as blood, semen, rectal fluids, vaginal fluids, and breast milk.
- Most of the HIV cases recorded are due to **sexual contact**, but there are also cases due to **sharing of needles** (drug injection), and **mother-to-child transmission**.
- You may not know if you are infected with HIV just by relying on how you feel because it can show no symptoms. If you want to know if you have HIV, go to San Lazaro Hospital and other accredited centers for testing. However, it takes **3-6 months for HIV to get detected in the blood**. So if you are still sexually active or involved in risky behaviors, even if you tested negative, you need to take the test

again after 6 months.

- If someone we love discloses that he or she has HIV, this person needs our **love** and **support** all the more. Expressions of love, such as a **hug**, give them comfort. Let them know that you are there for them. Accompany them on their **regular medical checkups**, and when advised by the doctor, ensure that they are taking their **medications** properly.

### The Church Response to HIV/AIDS

- The Church has been caring for **persons living with HIV (PLHIV)** and leading the fight against AIDS. The **Philippine Catholic HIV-AIDS Network (PhilCHAN)** was organized in 2011 as an umbrella organization of all individuals and faith-based organizations, who for so many years have addressed the needs of PLHIV and fought against HIV/AIDS. Among these organizations are the **Daughters of Charity [# 0933-6173558]**, **Woodwater Center for Healing (Camillians) [tel# (02) 926-3147]**, and **RCAM Ministry on Health Care [tel# (02) 727-5752]**.
- **Chastity** is the best weapon to combat HIV/AIDS.

"The problem of HIV/AIDS cannot be overcome with mere slogans. If the soul is lacking, . . . the scourge cannot be resolved by distributing condoms; quite the contrary, we risk worsening the problem. The solution can only come through a twofold commitment: first, the humanization of sexuality, a spiritual and human renewal bringing a new way of behaving towards one another; and second, true friendship, above all with the suffering, a readiness — even through personal sacrifice — to stand by those who suffer."

— Pope Benedict XVI



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