

December 3, 2020



Last Sunday, November 29th, we began the **holy season** of **ADVENT**, a time of **waiting, expectation** and of **hope**. Is this not what we are experiencing right now during the pandemic?

We are **waiting** for a safe and **effective vaccine** and an end to Covid19. We look forward with **hope** to a **return** to normal life, to not have to worry about getting too close to people, to be able to gather again with family and friends, to travel, and to worship and praise God in song at our liturgies.

We wait in **joyful expectation** for the coming of a vaccine. We **hope** that soon it will be widely distributed. We look forward to going out to eat and shopping without worry of contracting the virus. We look forward to attending sports events and in continual in-person classes

We wait with **hope** of being able to **visit** our loved ones in hospitals and nursing homes without the worry that we may be carrying the deadly virus

We are waiting to go to church and gathering closely again as we worship the Lord. We hope to see our churches full without necessary empty pews to keep people apart, to singing and exchanging the sign of peace.

Yes, we **wait**, and we **hope**. Yet even when life returns to normal, there will **not** be an end to **sickness and suffering**. There will **not** be an end to all **loneliness and isolation**. The sorrows of life will not disappear. The production of a vaccine will **not** bring peace to the world or eradicate the diseases of the spirit that are part of our life. It will not eradicate injustice.

But what really is our greatest hope? Deep down, we will still feel a **longing** for something greater, a longing for **unending happiness, a longing for joy, peace and love**, a longing for a **Savior**. We long for God. Without Him, we have no ultimate hope and will not find joy and peace. With Him, we go through life as a journey toward the fullness of life.

The season of **Advent** focuses on this **great hope**. It is a time of **waiting** and **expectation**. It is being aware of the God who became one of us and sent His Son that we might have life, life in **abundance**.

So, during this season of **Advent**, let us turn our gaze and our heart to Him who is our **Savior**. In spiritual union with the Blessed Virgin Mary, **Our Lady of Advent**, may we **await** and **hope** for an end to the coronavirus pandemic as we await the coming of the **Lord** and place our **hope in Him**. (Bishop Kevin Rhodes)