

Refrigerator Notes 03 December 2017

“Who is Watching for Lord?”

Mark 13:32-37

1. This month we celebrate the Church season of Advent.
2. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.
3. Advent is a season observed as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.
4. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming".
5. In Advent, we expectantly wait for the “Son of Man” who has already come.
6. Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!
7. In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord.
8. Eeraman’s Dictionary of the Bible may suggest that ‘Watchfulness’ is a “preparedness or readiness” one must have in order to avoid being taken unaware by an enemy (Psalm 127).
9. In the New Testament, there are three basic emphases found for our watchfulness: (1) be prepared for the Lord's return; (2) be on guard against temptation; and (3) struggle in prayer.
10. **The first**, the disciples are even admonished to abstain from sleep because the coming of the Son of Man will be unexpected, like a thief in the night.
11. Watchfulness characterizes the attitudes of the disciples who await with hope the return of Jesus and vigilant (watchfulness) demands alertness and detachment from earthly pleasures and activities (Luke 21:34-36).
12. Watchfulness implies sobriety, an avoidance of worldly excesses associated with darkness and drunkenness.
13. **The second**, Guard Against Temptation, implies that “Vigilant” watch for the Lord's return enables the disciples to battle temptation.
14. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour”
15. The Church must watch unless savage wolves, influenced by the evil one, overtake the community and lead it astray Dulatown.
16. **The third**, Our Lord Jesus employ us to “Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).
17. The actions of watchfulness and prayer are indissolubly united. Prayer is an act of vigilance and vigilance a consequence of prayer; “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication” (Ephesians 6:18-19).
18. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints
19. Vigilant watchfulness is a manifestation of genuine spiritual life and it keeps the church faithful in avoiding being lulled into false security.
20. This Sunday morning, we lit the candle of “Hope” which symbolizes the expectation of Jesus’ return.