



## HOMILY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT 2021, YEAR C

*Preparation of the homilies for the Sundays of Advent should take into consideration all the texts of the Roman Missal and Lectionary. The paragraphs below highlight a connection between the Sunday Gospels and the Nothing Compares to Being There initiative of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

### **First Sunday of Advent**

**November 28, 2021**

**Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

The First Sunday of Advent dramatically announces that our “redemption is at hand” (Luke 21: 28). The Father sent Jesus to us in the flesh. The divine Son of God takes on our humanity without loss of his divinity. Advent joyfully anticipates this great Mystery celebrated with the Nativity of the Lord. It is in the flesh that our Savior goes to the cross to redeem us. It is in the flesh that the Savior continues this same act of redemption with the celebration of every Mass. *Nothing Compares to Being There* invites us to behold *in person* our redemption as it takes place on the altar during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 5, 2021**

**Luke 3: 1-6**

The Second Sunday of Advent introduces us to Saint John the Baptist, the precursor of the Lord and our companion to prepare for the Birth of the Savior. The Baptist boldly preaches that our preparation must be thorough and focused on the promise of salvation that comes with Jesus. This salvation is so immediate and intimate that John cries out “all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3: 6). *Nothing Compares to Being There* invites us to see *in person* the salvation of God in the flesh with the celebration of the Sunday Mystery of the Eucharist.

**Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday**  
**December 12, 2021**  
**Luke 3: 10-18**

The Third Sunday of Advent offers the practical advice of Saint John the Baptist in response to the question of the crowds, “What should we do?” (Luke 3: 10), in preparation for the Savior. The Baptist directs those experiencing his baptism to do tangible things, to treat their neighbors in concrete ways of charity and justice. This is in preparation for the One who is mightier and will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Likewise, we must ask ourselves the question, what should we do to prepare for the Birth of Jesus? Our preparation also must include tangible things—a renewed sense of conversion from sin, a greater awareness of God among us, and a focused concern for our neighbor. *Nothing Compares to Being There* reminds us that with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we receive *in person* the grace, the divine gift, to turn way from sin, to turn toward God, and to serve more generously our neighbor.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**Luke 1: 39-45**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent traditionally is observed with Mary, the Mother of God. Mary, with her *fiat* at the annunciation, conceives the Son of God in her blessed womb. This remarkable moment in the divine plan of salvation and in the life of the Blessed Virgin becomes a similar moment in every one of us. With our worthy reception of Holy Communion at Mass we too give residence to the Son of God in our hearts and in our lives. As the whole Church looks to the celebration of the Christmas Mystery, with the Word becoming flesh, so that he can take flesh in us with every Holy Communion, may we be filled with tremendous gratitude for so great a Gift. May Saint Elizabeth’s words to her cousin be true for each of us, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled” (Luke 1: 45). *Nothing Compares to Being There* reminds us that only *in person* can we eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ and so have him dwell within us in his Eucharistic Mystery.

**PROPOSED INTENTION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER**  
**FOR THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT (First Category)**

For a renewed awareness of the irreplaceable need  
to assemble *in person* for the celebration of Sunday Mass,  
that this will bring about a deeper grasp of the Eucharist  
as the indispensable source of grace to live the Christian life.  
*Let us pray to the Lord/Lord, hear our prayer.*