

Advent Reflections with the Masters

Sunday Dec 2

Let us consider...how the eternal Word has no other end in becoming human than to inflame us with his divine love. Let us ask the light of Jesus Christ and of his most holy Mother, and so let us begin.

- *Alphonsus Liguori (1696 - 1787)*

Monday Dec 3

In Advent...the Church takes up her journey again, and invites us to reflect more intensely on the mystery of Christ, a mystery that is always new and that time cannot exhaust. Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. For this reason, Advent is synonymous with hope: not the vain waiting for a faceless god, but concrete and certain trust in the return of him who has already visited us.

- *John Paul II, Advent Angelus, 2001*

Tuesday Dec 4

Thus I was taught by the grace of God...that I should seriously believe that all manner of things shall be well. For our Lord shall save His word in all things and he shall make well all that is not well -- though how it shall be done no creature knows or shall know until it is done. All is well, all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

Julian of Norwich (1342 - 1413)

Wednesday Dec 5

The Child is [coming]... who brings peace to those of good will; who loves all heartily, but especially those who are inconsolable...the Child who alone has the power to silence the absurd noise of your weapons on earth, and to stop your blood that spills over the entire globe...

- *Adrian van Kaam (1920 - 2017)*

FEAST of ST. NICHOLAS

Thursday Dec 6

One of Nicholas' neighbors was so poor that he planned to deliver his three daughters to prostitution in order to make a living from the profits of shame. When Nicholas heard of this, he was horrified...and wrapping a lump of gold in a cloth, he threw it into his neighbor's window at night, and fled without being seen. The next morning, the neighbor found the gold, and immediately arranged for the respectable marriage of his daughter. A few days later, a bundle of gold twice as large was thrown into his house. Hearing the noise, the neighbor set out in pursuit of Nicholas, begging him to stop so he could see his face. Upon recognizing the saint, the man tried to kiss his feet. But Nicholas declined his thanks. He exacted a promise that the man would keep the secret until after his death.

- *from the life of -Nicholas of Myra, as told by Jacob of Voragine*



Friday Dec 7

Grant to us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but rather to love heavenly things...that while all things around us pass away, we even now may hold fast those things that abide forever. - *Leo the Great (d. 461)*

Saturday Dec 8

O Thou, whose glorious, though contracted light / Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger / ...Furnish and deck my soul, that Thou mayst have / a better lodging than a rack or grave.

- *from Christmas (I), George Herbert (1593 - 1633)*



First Week of Advent • 2018