

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is time once again to enter the porch of the Season of Advent. A season that in many ways is countercultural to our secular world. While the world encourages the hustle and bustle of shopping and decorating, Advent encourages us to wait with patient expectation for a trifold celebration. We celebrate Jesus' birth historically, his anticipated second coming, and his presence with us now.



The Advent colours of purple and rose, are once again in stark contrast to the Christmas red and green. These colours are clearly depicted in the traditional Advent wreath by our candles. Our themed candles of Advent are intended to remind us of the true meaning of the season.

The first candle is symbolic of hope. We are called through our words and actions to be beacons of hope in a gloomy and dreary world. Indeed, to be that constant reminder that no matter how deep the darkness gets, the smallest light can brighten it.

Our second candle is representative of peace. In a world that echoes with the sounds of war and violence, we are called to be peacemakers. Scripture tells us, that “blessed are the peacemakers.” Undoubtedly, more than ever the Prince of Peace calls us to fight for justice, as the two facets of peace and justice are intrinsically linked. In fact, Saint John Paul II told us, “If you want peace, work for justice.”

The third candle, synonymous with the third week of Advent, represents joy. What a wonderful gift it is to be a source of joy for someone else. And therein, also lies our challenge. The challenge to recognize that joy is not necessarily a thing, but a person- Jesus Christ. From this perspective we are invited to find lasting joy in Jesus and not in the superficiality of material things. When we choose this particular option of joy in Jesus, we become cognizant that spreading the good news of Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of joy both for ourselves and others.

Finally, we have that proverbial fourth candle that evokes love. A golden oldie states “what the world needs now, is love sweet love.” Our world is still very much in need of this sweet love, that is often accompanied with great sacrifice. It is a love that moves us beyond selfish motives and to look outward to the needs of others, especially the poor, the sick, the elderly and the most vulnerable among us.

As we invite our Emmanuel to revisit us, this Holy Season let us do so with a mindset that embodies, hope, peace, joy and love. And it is then and only then after patiently waiting and preparing, that we can be ready to truly welcome the Prince of Peace to reside both in our homes and in our hearts. We wish you all a very happy and blessed Advent.

Sincerely,

The Administrative Team