

RCIA – Symbolon Lesson 10: The Last Things

Opening Prayer

- Song: **Blest Are They, MI 629**

- **Mystagogy of the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming.**

- The coming of God’s Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the “First Covenant.” He announces Him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, He awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming. (CCC 522)

- When the Church celebrates *the liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming. (CCC 524)

- **Catechism references for further reflection:**

- Advent and the coming of Jesus (Incarnation): CCC 522-526
- Christ coming at the end of time: CCC 673-677
- Particular Judgement: CCC 1021-1022
- Heaven: CCC 1023-1029
- Purgatory: CCC 1030-1032
- Last Judgement: CCC 1038-1041

- **Questions for Discussion:**

- What are the 3 times (or ways) Jesus comes to us?

- What is your image of Heaven? How did they describe Heaven in the video?

- What is Hell? Does God send people to Hell?

- What is the Catholic teaching on Purgatory? Why can Purgatory be seen in some sense as a blessing from a loving God?

- What is meant by the “Particular Judgement” and when does that occur? What is the “Last (or Final) Judgement” and when will that occur?

- Why do we as Catholics pray for those who have died?

- What resolutions will you make in order to grow in holiness – in your knowledge and love of God – during this new liturgical year?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading: 2nd Sunday in Advent (Mt 3:1-12)**

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:
*A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*
John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

- **Closing prayer**