

RCIA – Symbolon Lesson 10: The Last Things

Opening Prayer

- Song: Soon and Very Soon

- 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: 1st Sunday in Advent (Mk 13:33-37)**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places his servants in charge,
each with his own work,

and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

Watch, therefore;

you do not know when the lord of the house is coming,
whether in the evening, or at midnight,

or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

- **Closing prayer**