

## 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
- Hell: CCC 1033-1037
- 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent (Lk 3:1-6)**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,  
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,  
and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee,  
and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region  
of Ituraea and Trachonitis,  
and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,  
during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,  
the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.  
John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,  
as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:*

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.*

*Every valley shall be filled  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.*

*The winding roads shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

- **Closing prayer**