

## ***Advent 2011***

“Prepare for the coming of the Lord.” St. John the Baptist proclaimed this message to the people of Israel before the Lord came. We are to listen to the same message today, “Prepare for the coming of the Lord.”

The Season of Advent reminds us to prepare ourselves to receive the Lord. Do we recognize the presence of the Lord in our daily lives? Are we ready to receive the Lord into our lives each day? Advent reminds us to be ready to welcome the Lord daily.

In prayer: we place ourselves in God’s presence as we thank God for all that we have, giving God glory for His goodness, presenting our needs to Him as we remind ourselves of our dependence on God, and we ask for forgiveness of our sins. In prayer we ready ourselves to welcome Jesus into our lives as he reveals the Father to us.

In our Masses: the theme is preparation and looking forward with hope. The purple vestments remind us of the darkness of the early morning before the rising of the sun of the new day. We are in the darkness of the “early morning hours” waiting for Jesus Son of God, “The New Light” to shine upon us.

My prayer for all of you is that the Advent Season is a blessed time for you and your loved ones. As you prepare for the Christmas celebrations in your homes, work places and schools, may you also prepare yourselves to receive the Lord in your heart.

Blessed Advent,

Father John Hall

