



# CONSOLATA SHRINE

## First Sunday of Advent Year A

27th November 2016



### FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

***The Lord will gather all nations in the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God***

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills, and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***The word of the Lord***

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122:1-2.4-9

**Response. We shall go rejoicing to the house of the Lord**

I rejoiced when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
And now our feet are standing within your gates,  
O Jerusalem. **(Response)**

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.  
For Israel's witness it is to praise the name of the Lord.  
There were set the thrones for judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David. **(Response)**

We shall go rejoicing to the house of the Lord  
For the peace of Jerusalem pray,  
"May they prosper, those who love you."  
May peace abide in your walls,  
and security be in your towers. **(Response)**

For the sake of my family and friends,  
let me say, "Peace upon you."  
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek good things for you. **(Response)**



*"Salvation is nearer to us now."*

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brethren: You know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh.

***The word of the Lord***



**Alleluia**

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,  
and grant us your salvation

**Alleluia**



**GOSPEL**

**Mathew 24:37-44**

***Watch therefore, you must be ready***

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**



At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

***The Gospel of the Lord***

**REFLECTION**

**THEME: IN A DARK HOUR by Dr. Scott Hahn**

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26). His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him - spiritually and morally - when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us - like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah. In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night. Though we sit in the darkness,

overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading. In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord - that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5). By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7). It is time we start living like it - throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace. The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.



As we sing in today's Psalm, let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

## FIRST SUNDAY AND WEEK OF ADVENT DIRECTIONS

*Light the first purple candle*

**Prayer:**

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and come,  
that by thy protection we may be rescued  
from the dangers that beset us through our sins;  
and be a Redeemer to deliver us;

Who livest and reignest with God the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

**Alternate/Complementary Prayer:**

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ,  
desire of every nation,  
Savior of all peoples,  
come and dwell among us.

(From Christmas Prayers, Victor Hoagland, C.P.)

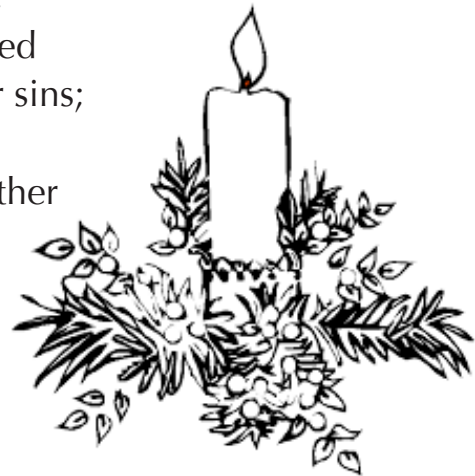
Scriptures:

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Luke: 1:26-38**

**Isaiah 7:10-14**

**Matthew 1:18-24**





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today the group of Homeless of Nairobi, composed by street young people, are offering their service of cleaning shoes outside the church. Kindly support their project and efforts.
2. Tomorrow Monday 28th, Ecumenism meeting will be at 6.15pm. You are all welcome to know more about this important dimension of our Christian life.
3. Next Friday is the first Friday of the month. Vigil of prayer and Adoration in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9pm and ends with mass at 5am.
4. On Saturday 3rd we have the Marathon Rosary and prayers in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the prayer garden from 10am to 4pm. All are welcome.
5. Next Sunday 4th, is the first Sunday of the month; therefore, we will have a second collection of St Vincent de Paul to assist the needy of the parish.
6. Next Sunday also, we will have the Rosary being prayed in front of the Eucharist after the twelve o'clock Mass.
7. Family Calendars for 2017 are available at the desk outside the Church and in the bookshop. Get a copy for your loved ones.

### CONSOLATA SHRINE'S SHORT MESSAGE SERVICE (SMS)

For renewal, registration and verification of details for the Consolata Shrine's Short Message Service (SMS), please visit the Parish Office. The service has enabled great sharing on the word of God, activities and events at the Shrine and other important notices for your information.

**Cost: Kshs 300/ year**

**Period: 2016 - October 2017**

**Mpesa – Paybill no. 508702**

**Account: your (first) name**

Registration for the Boys Rite of Passage is still ongoing, kindly collect registration forms from the Parish Office.

### SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

**Sunday: 7.30 am Kiswahili**

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon and

5:30 pm **English**

**Saturday: English** 7.00 am, 9.00 am

and 5.30 pm

**Monday to Friday: English** 7:00 am

and 1.15 pm, 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

**Parish Website:** [www.consolatashrine.org](http://www.consolatashrine.org) • **Parish E-Mail:** [info@consolatashrine.org](mailto:info@consolatashrine.org)

**Parish Priest's E-Mail:** [parishpriest@consolatashrine.org](mailto:parishpriest@consolatashrine.org)

Parish Mpesa Business Number: **508702** • P.O. Box **14930 - Nairobi**

Cell Phone: **0722 615 105**