

**Christ Our Hope Catholic Church**

## ***Faith in Laity Corner***



***Monday, December 04, 2017***

***Year 1/Cycle B***

***Is. 63:16-17, 19, 64:1-***

***Advent Week 1***

### **Hope On Alert**

Today we begin the four-week Advent trail to the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. A happy new Catholic liturgical year to you!!! We are now in Cycle B, Year 2 and we will read the Gospels according to St. Mark. As Catholics we begin this important season with HOPE. Yes, we are anxious, in our hope; but we know if there was no hope, life will have no meaning. Life would become unbearable with the failures of the past, forcing us become paralyzed for any future movement. *'As long as we have life there is hope'*. Will this year turn out better, than the last? Will our desires, prayers, wishes be fulfilled? Can I build on my God - self relationship? Advent is the time we have to ponder on what this new year will bring. What changes would I have to make to *'prepare for the heavenly kingdom.'* What is your New Year's hope?

*"Why do you make us wander, LORD, from your ways,  
and harden our hearts so that we do not fear you?" (Is. 63:17)*

As humans whom God created, it is so easy for us to stray and wonder away on our own. It never leads to success; it is always a failed attempt.

*"Indeed, you are angry; we have sinned  
we have acted wickedly." (Is.64:4)*

Continuing in our humanness there is every attempt to redefine what is sin and to what extent one is willing to hurt others and destroy our very souls and those around us. *(We don't have far to look)*

*"We have all become like something unclean,  
all our just deeds are like polluted rags." (Is. 64:5)*

Around in our world the focus on proliferation of nuclear weapons, the rhetoric of destruction, a

Congress bent on destroying the hopes of future generations, belief in self as above all else, the ‘*polluted rags*’ are what we wear. How is it that our clothes are made on the labor of the poor countries, whose workers are paid to remain on the poverty line, for the sake of ‘great American’ profits. What a shame!!!

*“We have all withered like leaves,  
and our crimes carry us away like the wind.” (Is. 63:5)*

The ‘**great**’ country in the world is no longer concerned about the environment, the quality of our water, our food sources or our protected land spaces. Yet, we remain silent and hope our *crimes will blow with the wind*.

*“There are none who call upon your name,  
none who rouse themselves to take hold of you” (Is. 34:6)*

There is a silence among our American Conference of Bishops on the state of our affairs, we are not roused, and there has been no call to beg in prayer for a different way out. We are not crying out in prayer against our ‘crimes’. We fall to an all-time low! ... Our people of fame plunge by the dozens hidden lies to themselves of their past, moving to lies under oath, more lies to the voters, with all avoidance of the ‘painful truth’. WE need Advent to provide us with a HOPE Watch for this season. Only a Messiah can save us from the mess we are in today, yes... 2017, what a ‘hot’ mess!!!

Turning our life over to welcome the coming of the Messiah, is a complete removal from our past, a giving up of self-interests and a whole remolding, and remodeling by the Master. We have to be pliable, so as to be molded. You know flexible to see changes....

*“We are the clay and You our potter:  
we are all the work of Your hand.” (Is. 63:7)*

<http://www.ecaroh.info/godofmusic10.mp3>

**HAPPY NEW CHURCH YEAR TO YOU!!!!!!**

Copied curtesy: *Potter’s Clay* from the Abby of Mt. St. Benedict, St. Augustine

Republic of Trinidad <http://www.sweetsoca.com/sacred/godofmusic.htm>

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Let us pray for our country, who has passed legislature which turns its back to the poor, those who seek a better way and those who follow rules, which are now set against them. May the coming of Advent put us on a Hope Watch for the consolation of the Messiah.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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