

ADVENT PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENT

On December 1st, the Church entered the season of Advent. The central theme of Advent is to prepare for the Coming of the Lord. So, how do we prepare?

1. We commit to works of charity.

This comes from the gospel, Matthew 25:31ff, where at the King's coming he asks the people what they have done for the least of his brothers and sisters.

2. We cleanse ourselves of whatever sin is separating us from the Lord.

This comes from the gospel, Matthew 3:1, where John the Baptist tells us to repent and make a straight path for the coming of the Lord.

3. We pray.

This also comes from the gospel. In various places Jesus talks about the importance of prayer. In Matthew 24:32, Jesus tells us we won't know the hour of the coming of the King- be ready!

These aren't simple and they aren't easy. They take commitment and sacrifice—and God's grace. But, if we do them, we will be prepared for the Coming of the Lord whenever that will be. It's worth the effort!

To help you in your efforts to make this Advent a time of spiritual growth, we are assigning that you would write a reflection on one (1) worship/ penance service that you attend during the four weeks of Advent. If you are a practicing Catholic (Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, etc.), this should be at your own church. If you are not committed to a particular faith, this may be at any Christian church. You will attend and then reflect on the experience. Do not be embarrassed to take notes during the service. Every student at SMCC is being given this assignment—feel free to share rides and attend services together—however, each person has to complete and submit the assignment individually. The prayer experience has to be outside of the school day/retreats.

Please answer the following in a typed 1-2 page paper:

1. Place of Worship
2. Date & Time of Service
3. Type of Service (Sunday Mass, Penance Service, Wednesday Night Worship, etc.)
4. Name of the Presider/Priest/Pastor/Minister/Deacon (whichever applies)
5. Scriptures that were used at the Service (citation and 2-3 sentence summary for each)
6. A one paragraph summary of the Reflection/Teaching given at the Service
7. Description of how the Church environment promoted the Season of Advent
8. Description of how the Music promoted the Season of Advent
9. Explain how attending this Service was of value to you

This paper will be turned to your Theology class by Friday, December 13th.