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Fun and Serious=12-2-23

††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* ††† **Humor for today** ††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* †††

Last night, our Wi-Fi stopped working, so I spent a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* †††

Math Teacher: “If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?” Student: “A drinking problem.”

††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* †††

Q: If you have 13 apples in one hand and 10 oranges in the other, what do you have? A: Big hands.

††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* †††

Q: Why didn't the sailors play cards? A: Because the captain was on the deck.

††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* †††

Q: What do cats eat for breakfast? A: Mice Krispies.

††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* †††

Q: What did the beaver say to the tree? A: “It's been nice gnawing you!”

††† *Jesus Mary Joseph* †††

A lot of people cry when they cut an onion. The trick is not to form an emotional bond.

†††JMJ††† **This is Serious** †††JMJ†††

(December 3, 2023, is the First Sunday of Advent. You can find sermons using this hyperlink.

<https://jmjsite.com/First%20of%20Advent.html>

Use this link https://jmjsite.com/advent_psalms_and_prayers.pdf for the Advent and Christmas prayers.

With this first Sunday of Advent, we began the new Liturgical Year. Let us follow the advice of St. John the Baptist and, “prepare the way of the Lord.” Let us “prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ.” Yes, indeed, this first Sunday of Advent reminds us of the beginning and the end. How many years ago were we brought into existence? What have we done, and how have we lived during all of those years? How many thousands of people have been born on December 3rd? I personally know at least four of them, but how vastly different are their lives! How often have you knelt and thanked God from the depth of your heart for having brought you into existence? If you have the gift of the true Faith, do you thank Almighty God for that special grace every day of your life? Do you pray fervently every day for the grace to seek the truth, to find the truth, to understand the truth, to know the truth, to accept the truth, to live according to the truth, to love the truth, and to never again reject or impugn any known truth? A few people may ask with Pontius Pilate, “What is truth?” However, how many are willing to stop and reflect upon what the truth is? Most of the people I know imitate Pontius Pilate and immediately turn away without waiting for an answer from God, and with little reflection thereafter to find out the truth. Nevertheless, everyone’s eternal salvation or damnation depends upon whether they know, understand, and live according to the truth. If everyone reflected seriously every day and prayed as they should, for the graces they need to live according to God’s Most Holy Will, we would not be living in a world filled with so much chaos.

We are reminded in the Gospel for today’s liturgy, “Heaven and earth shall pass away.” Of the billions of people living on earth today, there is not even one who will not pass away. Our bodies will return to the earth, but where will our souls go when separated from the body? The end is coming for every one of us. We should reflect seriously on these words from the *Imitation of Christ*: “In all things look to the end, and how thou wilt stand before the strict Judge, from Whom there is nothing hid; Who takes no bribes, and receives no excuses, but will judge that which is just.”

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