

Daily Homily

1 Week of Advent 2020

St. John Damascene; priest and poet

4 December 2020

[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

I hope this week has helped us to transition well from the end of the Church Year 2020 and into this new Church Year of Grace 2021 with the Advent Season. It really does flow from one point into the next. At the end of the Church Year we read some rather dark and depressing readings and accounts from the Word of God. All necessary to keep us in check. Mostly, we read from the book of Revelation and mostly the Gospels raise up a harsh Jesus who comes out at this time, the Jesus who calls for accountability and responsibility in discipleship.

This first week of Advent proclaims that even though a shadow is still cast, even though a grey cloud looms overhead, still there is reason to hope. All of that is about to pass, all of that is about to give way. Isaiah finally offers the prophecy that the dawn is rising, fresh air is blowing, the heaviness is lightening, and God is on the way.

In Jesus, God is here. Two men: struggling in the world, caught in the darkness of blindness, tripping over the unfamiliar, reaching out to those who avoid them, begging a fulltime career, reliant solely on the fickle generosity of others. The dawn rises in their lives and the blind pall of darkness is lifted from their eyes. God the healer has come to them. There is hope.

What gloom or darkness still lays claim to your life? What is stealing your joy? What evil needs to be cut off? Where does the work of God's hand need to pierce what is overcast, darkened, and blind so He can send you the dawn?

When you not only anticipate God's help in these matters, but when you actually pursue His help, like the two blind men did, then Advent is working on you.