

December 1, 2019

First Advent Sunday

Homily: Faith and Obedience in Jesus

(Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 8:48; 1 John 5:1-5)

All authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth, and there is no greater blessing for us than to s_____ to Jesus' authority and give our lives to Him. We do this by placing our faith in Jesus as our S_____, and obey Him as L_____. Baptism does not save us, but it is an act of faith and obedience to Jesus, because He instructs us to be baptized.

Testimonies of Salvation

Things to Ponder This Week

Based on Matthew 28:18-20, what should our response be to the fact that all authority is given to Jesus? What three things are Jesus' followers called to do in submission to His authority over them? What is Jesus' promise to His disciples? How does Jesus' authority and promise give you strength to live each day?

Based on 1 John 5:1-5, who are the ones who are victorious in this world? What is the identity of these people; who do they belong to, and how are they to live? If you identify yourself with such people, what is your testimony of salvation in Christ? Prayerfully look for opportunities to share your testimony with others.

We are now officially in the Advent Season, a time to prepare ourselves in expectation/anticipation of Christ's coming. As much as it is a time of anticipation of Christmas (celebration of Jesus' first coming), it is also a time of expectation for His second coming. Prayerfully read Luke 1:5-38, and consider the preparations made by God in the sending of His Son Jesus into this world. Prayerfully consider what preparations you should make for this Christmas (think more in spiritual terms). Prayerfully consider whether you are ready for Jesus' second coming, and think of how you should be preparing for His sure and imminent return.