

Second Sunday of Advent.

Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the neighbor's little boy was in his backyard filling in a hole. Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?" Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him."

"That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said. Patting down the last bit of earth, little Jimmy replied, "That's because he's in your cat!"

Dear friends,

The second week of advent talks about the homecoming of our hearts to receive Jesus Christ. It has three important words for us to ponder upon: Repentance, reparation and renewal of our hearts. Advent is a season of preparation of our hearts and home to rebuild the love and joy of Christ coming.

The first reading from Book of Isaiah brings comfort to people after being lost for so many years of exile in the hands of Babylon. Now God leads them back to their home. The roads are straightened. Isaiah reassures that God will never punish them anymore and will take care of them. That was the good news for the people of Israel and to us today.

Through the Gospel, we learn that there was a preparation to receive Jesus Christ. John the Baptist was the precursor. Mark, the author of the Gospel was short in giving the details. Starting from Moses, the prophets who prepared for God's coming reached their pinnacle in John the Baptist for introducing Jesus the son of God.

Jesus preaching demanded repentance. When we read the bible, we see God was so compassionate and joyful when people repent and follow him. Whenever people repent from their sins, God gave them back everything they had lost. To be a good disciple, repentance is the first step. It helps us to know who we are and to know God better in our life. Repentance brings change in life and our attitude.

John the Baptist calls for a change of heart and conduct. We can see this in the Gospel of Mathew 3: 1-10, and in the Gospel of Luke 3:1-20 more elaborately. He asked each group to bring change and do reparation.

When we repent, there is a renewal in our hearts. This is a good way to receive Jesus at incarnation and in his second coming. John the Baptist purified himself being in the desert and asked people to renew themselves to meet Christ Jesus.

Today God promised to rebuild and restore his relationship with us. Are we ready to repent and renew our hearts?

