

ADVENT, A TIME TO SAY YES

- 1st Sunday:
Seek to understand
- 2nd Sunday:
Prepare the home
- 3rd Sunday:
Courage, do not fear!
- 4th Sunday:
Let yourself be de-stabilized



Fourth Sunday

Let yourself be de-stabilized!

“Joseph decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when the angel of the Lord appeared....”

From the Liturgy of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The evangelist Matthew describes Joseph as a just man who acts according to the heart of God. Joseph’s choices prove this. He thinks, discerns, and in the end, perhaps with great suffering in his heart, he decides! The Gospel offers us life, a life made of dreams, projects and quivering hope, but also a life of devastation and delusions. Life runs through every page and verse [in this Sunday’s readings], from King Ahaz to the Apostle Paul—a life where God enters and leaves his mark.

Nothing is different today. God asks to enter into those choices that we have already decided, and engrave indelible traces of his presence on the rock of our life.

He asks us to overcome the unbelief that is always possible, and to do so by trusting and asking for a sign, but not one that provokes or challenges. “Ask to know,” the Word cries out to our life, “ask to know God as he himself wants to be known. Ask to enter into a true relationship made up of dialogue, words, gift and flesh, because your flesh he made his own.”

He is here, ready to enter and to be born, and to continue being God, untiringly, with you.

ATTITUDE FOR THIS WEEK

Let yourself be de-stabilized! There is no other way. Christmas is very near and the gift that we are about to welcome is very big. God gives himself, but he does so by shaking off what is certain, and unhinging what is secure. God gives himself as newness in love and life. There is only one suggestion for us: permit him to turn our plans upside down, and allow him to broaden the horizon of our choices, opening wide our heart beyond every calculation and measure. Having done this, Joseph and Mary permitted history to see the invisible and to touch God.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

***Lord Jesus, light of the world,
come into every darkness
and brighten every night.***

***Into choices full of bitterness and delusion
come and give light.***

***Into actions hardened by pain and fear:
come and free us through trust.***

***Into plans full of pride and weak in solidarity:
come and teach us goodness.***

***Into words of kindness and agreement:
come and open us up to the charity of the truth***

***Come, Lord Jesus, everything in us is ready
and desires you. Amen.***