

1ST WEEK OF ADVENT



WANT TO BE RESCUED?



Jesus comes at Christmas to rescue us, to save us. Advent is a time to prepare for that coming.

Jesus will twist nobody's arm. We do not *have* to go to Heaven. If we show Him that we desire to be rescued and saved, then He will do all in His power to help us. But He will not rescue us and save us without our cooperation.

Heaven is not a place where everyone automatically goes after death. In fact, Jesus said most people are not saved because they think very little about Heaven and do little to prepare themselves.

Jesus wants to see if we think much about what He has come to do, or whether we are caught up in the amusements of world and have no time for Him.

In this life on earth, we live in great danger of losing our souls. Our chief enemies are the DEVIL, THE WORLD and THE FLESH.

The DEVIL tempts us in many ways to ignore Jesus, to be indifferent about our Faith, to doubt the teachings of the Church, to rebel against the laws of the Church, our parents and teachers, just as he did with Adam and Eve.

The WORLD, of which the devil is the prince, dangles all kinds of wonderful things before our eyes and preaches a different gospel to that of Jesus. It seeks to pull us into a fatal comfort, ease, pleasure, entertainment, money, movies, fashions and games. All these turn our eyes, minds and hearts away from Jesus and Heaven.

The FLESH, or own self, fears the cross, suffering, mortification, prayer and penance, preferring the sweet things of the world to the bitter herbs of Heaven.

Jesus knows our difficulties and fears, that is why He chose to come to earth to strengthen us and to rescue us. But we cannot serve both Jesus and the world. We must either reach out for Jesus, and let Him pull us out the sinking world; or we sink together with the world.

