

## 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent

- All week long we have been doing Marriage Prep classes here at St. Tim's
  - We have 8 couples that have been meeting – getting ready, preparing for life together
  - It is also the first week of Advent – countdown to Christmas begins
  - Both Advent – and Marriage Prep have the same thing in common
    - Being prepared, getting ready
      - When we think of Christmas we think of
        - The Tree                      Shopping                      Cooking
        - Lights                          Wrapping                      Cards
        - Decorating                      More Shopping                      and the list goes on
- We are also called to prepare for something else
- Jesus
  - Now usually we hear about Jesus' coming at Bethlehem
  - And we also hear reading like those today (2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus)
  - But I like to think that Jesus comes 3x
    - At Bethlehem
    - At the end of time
    - When he comes in our hearts – just as real as Bethlehem

It's a wonderful life:

Jimmy Stewart felt life didn't matter – he'd been working hard, day by day  
Running small town bank  
Nice Guy – but in his heart, he didn't matter  
Then God intervened – He sent an angel

Each of us lives our life day by day  
Like the 1<sup>st</sup> reading

Working in the field  
Grinding at the mill  
Marrying and being given in marriage  
Day by Day Ordinary stuff of Life

& God comes to us – then what?

God wants to touch our hearts – God wants to be part of our lives – its up to us to accept Him  
TODAY - With a sense of urgency TODAY

This is what Advent is about – Jesus comes & we are blessed (But we tend to put it off)

Story of 3 apprentice devils talking to Satan – How are we going to defeat humanity

- I'll convince them there is no God – NOT
- I'll convince them there is no hell – NOT
- I'll convince them there is no hurry – GO, you'll get thousands

Advent is a special time – a time to prepare – decorations and the celebration of Christmas  
& we prepare our hearts as well – cause no matter what your history, Jesus **IS** coming