Advent Reflection

As we embark on the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and reflection, the profound words of St. Augustine of Hippo echo through the corridors of history, reminding us of the awe-inspiring mystery at the heart of Christmas:

Man's maker was made man, that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that the Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

Advent has a twofold nature. It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation.

During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel reading Has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaish, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the Apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season.