Advent Worship Participation Assignment

On Sunday, December 1, the Catholic Church enters the season of Advent. The central theme of Advent is to prepare for the Coming of the Lord. So, how do we prepare?

**1. We commit to works of charity.**

 *This comes from the gospel, Matthew 25:31ff, where at the King’s coming he asks the people what they have done for the least of his brethren.*

**2. We cleanse ourselves of whatever sin is separating us from the Lord.**

 *This comes from the gospel, Matthew 3:1, where John the Baptist tells us to repent and make a straight path for the coming of the Lord.*

**3. We pray.**

*In various places in the Gospels Jesus talks about the importance of prayer. In Matthew 24:32, Jesus tells us we won’t know the hour of the coming of the King- we must be ready!*

These aren’t simple and they aren’t easy. They take commitment, sacrifice and God’s grace. When we do them, we are preparing for the Coming of the Lord. That’s definitely worth the effort.

To help you pray this Advent, all theology students are being assigned to write a reflection on one (1) worship, penance or youth group service that you attend during Advent. If you are practicing your faith (*Catholic*, *Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, etc.*) this should be at your own church. If you are not committed to a particular faith, this may be at any Christian church. There is a link on my weebly to all of the Catholic Churches in Monroe County. That may help you find a Church.

**If SMCC takes you to something during the school day/on retreat—that cannot be used.**

If you attend an after/before school Mass/Confession in the Chapel—that can be used for this assignment.

You will attend and then reflect on the experience. Do not be embarrassed to take notes during the service. **This completed reflection will be submitted on turnitin.com by the start of class Monday, December 16.** Every student at SMCC is being given this assignment—feel free to share rides and attend together—however, each person has to complete and submit the assignment individually. Include the following:

* Place of Worship, Date & Time
* Type of Service- Sunday Mass, Penance Service, Wednesday Night Worship, etc.
* Name of the Presider/Priest/Pastor/Minister/Deacon (whichever applies)
* Scriptures that were used at the Service (not just a citation)
* A brief summary of any Reflection/Teaching given at the Service
* Description of how the Church environment and music promoted the Season of Advent
* In a few sentences, what did you take away from the service?

Be honest about your attendance- God is always watching!