

2nd/ 4th SUNDAY ADVENT, 2016 A

“Your light will come Jerusalem, upon you will shine the glory of the Lord! Alleluia.

The Gospel of Matthew is featured in liturgical year A.

Mathew is a Jewish writer or writers presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ to a mostly Jewish congregation. His congregation may consist of converts to Judaism who are now interested in this crucified Jew named Yeshua.

The focus of Mathew’s Gospel is that the Christian movement rooted in Jewish practice and Jewish Scripture will now reach out and evangelize the entire world. The Gospel teachings are the foundation of this movement. This movement is built on the rock of the confession of Peter. What is that confession?

That Jesus Christ is the anointed one -the Son of the living God, (Math. 16:15).

Workbook: p. 18

This Christian movement continues in the parishes of the City of Camden NJ in the ending of year 2016 through the year 2017. This movement still rests on the rock of Peter’s Confession. In the year 2016, who is Peter?

As we bring time to an end and consider the beginning of time, a theme for reflection and prayer might be: St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Catholic in Word and Deed.

We are people of every race, language, way of life united in the confession of Peter gathered around the table of the Lord - Catholic.

The **Word** is the written and living Word of God.
The **Deed** is loving as we have been loved.

The story of Julius: I want to be like my big brother Yeshua.
Encounter. Movement.

This year let us reflect on being Catholic in America 2017
founded on the living Word of God, engaged in collateral acts of
hope and love.

Mathew's Gospel tells the story of hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
The nation of Israel had hoped for liberation, had hoped for a
savior, hoped for Kugichakulia and hoped that God would be
King.

Mathew's Gospel tells the story that the son of Mary is that
hope fulfilled.
Mathew's Gospel tells the story that Jesus fulfills what scripture
promised.

To understand this story and to enter into this story and to
experience the hope of this story I invite each of you to think
about what oppresses you. Call to mind what imprisons you.
Name the lying idols demanding your worship. Admit where
fear freezes love, freezes service and stifles abundant living.

Name what hardens your heart, then enter the garden of good news of Mathew's Gospels.

In Mathew's Gospel Jesus says Blessed are you, but many of us choose cursed lives.

In Mathew's Gospel Jesus says Blessed are you but many of us choose death.

In Mathew's testimony Jesus says you are the light and the salt of the earth, but the World prefers the dark and the sweet.

Your light will shine St. Josephine Bakhita Parish. Upon you the glory of the Lord will shine. Let us walk in the light of the Lord God. Put on the armor of light, the light of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength, of knowledge and the delight of the fear of the Lord.

Strike the ruthless with the rod of your mouth, with the breath of your lips slay the wicked. Around your waist fasten the belt of Justice and your light will shine.

Asses and elephants will construct communities together.

Bears and Bulls will play ball.

Wolves and lambs will be neighbors together their young shall rest. Gang Bangers and police officers will lay down their guns, prisons will become gardens and America shall be filled with the knowledge of the Presence the Lord. Rejoice! your light will shine.