



# *Academy of Our Lady of Grace*

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December 2, 2018

Dear Parents,

## **Keeping Hope Alive**

The season of Advent is, above all, a season of hope. The Scripture readings for this season repeatedly invite us to keep hope alive.

In today's first reading, the prophet Jeremiah speaks to the people of ancient Israel at a moment of loss and desperation. Their city has been overrun, their temple destroyed, and many of the people have been exiled to a strange country.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus warns his disciples to be ready, vigilant, for the coming of the Lord. They are not to speculate about the day or the hour of history's fulfillment in Christ. They should focus on remaining connected to the Lord in prayer and living a life that is faithful to the Gospel. This Gospel passage, too, is a message of hope, because Jesus tells his disciples that when the signs of the end appear they are to stand erect and raise their heads, confident that their redemption is at hand.

For a Christian to have hope means that we hold on to the hand of God – the One who is all-good and always on the move to offer us life. Hope is ultimately based on the conviction that God is tenaciously faithful to his promises.

Fr. Peter