

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
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THE PROPHET'S CANDLE – HOPE



The lighting of this candle draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of Messiah, the Anointed One. His coming is woven like a golden thread all the way through Old Testament history. God's people were abused by power hungry kings, led astray by self-centered prophets and halfhearted religious leaders which resulted in some longing for God to raise up a new king who would teach them to be God's people and lead them in righteousness and truth. They longed for a return of God's dynamic presence in their midst
And so, God revealed to some of the prophets that He would not leave His people without a true

Shepherd. While the people expected a new earthly king, their expectations fell far short of God's revelation of Himself in Christ. And yet, the world is not yet fully redeemed. So, we again with expectation, with hope, await God's new work in history, the Second Advent (Second Coming), in which He will again reveal Himself to the world. And we understand in a profound sense that the best, the highest of our expectations will fall far short of what our Lord's Second Coming will reveal!

Celebrating Advent is counter cultural. Advent challenges us to wait, to hold off on celebrating Christmas until we've prepared ourselves. If we don't plan for Advent our lives will be shaped by the frenzy of the holiday season. Won't you take the time this season to prepare your heart for Christmas. Do not miss the reason for the season!

Attentively at your service in our Lord.

Father John Carlos