



1st Reading: [IS 63:16-17,19, 64:2-7](#)
Responsorial Psalm: [PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19](#)
Second Reading: [1 COR 1:3-9](#)
Gospel: [MK 13:33-37](#)

The First Sunday of Advent - Be watchful! Be Alert!

It was just a couple of weeks ago we heard a similar message: Be prepared, be ready. This week, be watchful, be alert. In today's gospel, Jesus is speaking of his second coming. Today, Advent begins as we prepare ourselves for Christ to come again. Though he already is here, he desires to be even closer to us. As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord, we are *called* to live in a way that we are always awake to his coming. In other words, our life becomes a preparation for the vision of such divine happiness ([Sacredspace.com](#))

In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters. ([LoyolaPress.com](#))

Happy New Year...Liturgically speaking!

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. Each liturgical year takes us through a "cycle" of readings that takes us through the waiting for our Savior, the Incarnation of Jesus, his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, his presence with us and our realization of his kingship. And then we begin again,... the cycle of the liturgical year from Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time through Christ the King, which we celebrated last Sunday.

Each new liturgical year provides us with a new "cycle" of Sunday readings. Cycle A we hear from the Gospel according to Matthew, Cycle B we hear the Gospel according to Mark and Cycle C, we hear the Gospel according to Luke. Can you determine which cycle the year 2020-2021 is? Hint: Look above to see the Gospel reading for this week.

The Month of December is dedicated to the Divine Infancy.

Place an empty manger near your Advent wreath. or each act of kindness or good deed that a family member does, place a piece of hay in the manger. By Christmas morning, their good works will make a bed for baby Jesus.

THE YEAR OF VOCATIONS

When you hear a *call*, may you *awaken* to God's voice.
 When you awaken to God's voice, may you say yes.
 When you say yes, may you follow faithfully.
 When you follow faithfully, may you give your life away.
 When you give your life away, may God's people be blessed.

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[LoyolaPress.com](#) - *Advent Waiting: Types of waiting, (Teens & Adult Faith Builder)*

[Loyolapress.com](#) - *How to Bless your Advent Wreath (Family Faith Builder)*

[franciscanmedia.org](#) - *Saint Andrew (All ages Faith Builder)*

[youtube.com](#) - *Prayers for the First Week of Advent: Lighting the First Advent Candle, Arlington Catholic Herald (Family)*

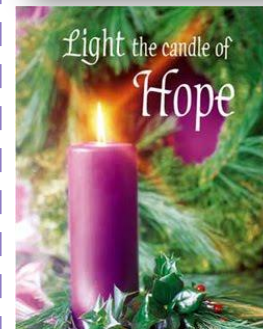
[Youtube.com](#) - *What is Advent?, Concordia Publishing House (Teens and Adults Faith Builder)*

[WAU.org](#) - *The Vocation to Family Life, The Word Among Us (Parents and Family Faith Builder)*



November 14, 2020 - November 21, 2021

Families have a special vocation - to witness and share faith with one another and the community. As a family, talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.



November 30 - Feast of St. Andrew, the Apostle

6 facts about the Holy Apostle Andrew



He was a fisherman like his brother, Saint Peter



He was first one called to become a disciple of the Savior



He preached the Gospel in Scythia Minor (Dobrudja)



He protects the Patriarchates of Constantinople and Romania



The cross on which he was crucified was X-shaped



His hand and head are in Patras, Greece



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