

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, November 29th

The First Sunday of Advent

Matthew 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"



How am I called to watch and wait for the Lord this Advent?

First Grade

Advent is the season when we wait and prepare. We remember that Jesus was born on Christmas over 2000 years ago. What do you know about Jesus' birth? Who are His parents? How do you usually celebrate your birthday? How can you make Jesus' birthday (Christmas) extra special this year? What can you give to Jesus as a special present?

Second Grade

It is the first week of Advent. What are you doing to get ready for Christmas? How are you helping your family to get ready for Christmas? Other than shopping, wrapping, cooking and cleaning, how are you preparing to remember Jesus' birthday? How would you want someone to celebrate your birthday? How can you make Jesus' birthday special this year?

Third and Fourth Grades

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to be watchful. What do you think He is telling us to be watchful for? What should we be looking for? How can you stay watchful for the Lord each day? What are the things that keep you busy every day that you think will make it challenging to watch and wait for the Lord this Advent? What can you do to wait for the Lord?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

Who are the people in your life that you love the most? In what ways have you had to wait for them? How is Jesus calling you to watch and wait for Him this Advent season? What is difficult about watching and waiting for something? Do you think it is easy or difficult to wait for someone? What can you do to be better at waiting for Jesus?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns us to not be unaware of Jesus' second coming. He tells us to not be caught sleeping. What do you think Jesus means by that? Other than literally sleeping, what else could 'sleeping' mean? How do people miss what is going on around them because they are not paying attention and are 'sleeping'?

High School and Adults

During Advent we remember that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago, but that is not what we are preparing for. Rather, we are watching and waiting for His Second Coming. Are you ready for Jesus to come again? How are you actively watching and waiting for Him to come again? What are you doing to prepare for the moment when you see Him again?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

In order to watch and wait for the Lord, we need to take time out of our day to specifically do that. Taking time means that we need to do more than say a quick prayer in the moments that we need something.

Instead, give God several minutes each day. Today, choose a time for each day this week that you can take time out to sit with God.

Tuesday

Although it sounds like it, waiting and watching for the Lord is not a passive activity. It requires action and for us to do something. Today, as you go about your day, stop frequently and ask God to show you where He is moving in your life this Advent. How is He working in your life to help other people, and working through others to help you?

Wednesday

Advent is the season in which we remember that in the first coming, Christ took on flesh and was born, and that we are always preparing for His Second Coming!

Are you ready for His Second Coming? How would you feel if He came back this week? Today, watch and wait for the Lord by planning a time that you will go to Confession this week.

Thursday

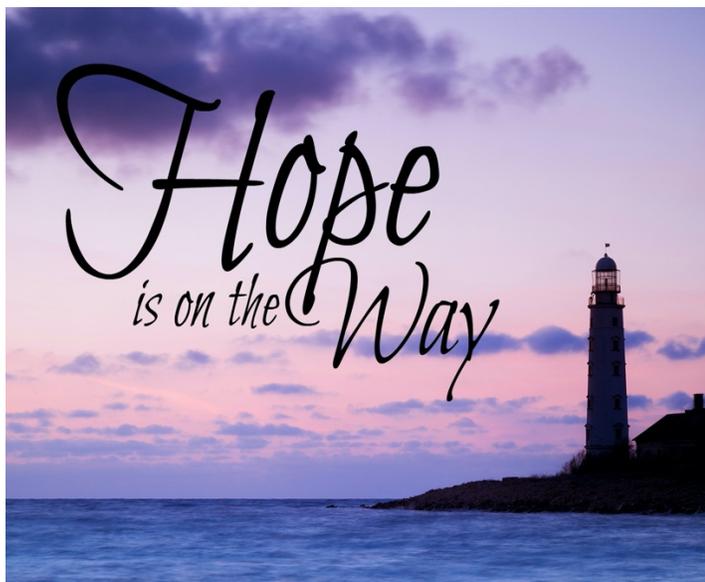
We are not called to watch and wait for the Lord by ourselves, but to do so with others. This is why He calls us into a parish community. How are you participating in the parish community? Today, think and pray about how God is calling you to watch and wait for Him in our community? What action is He calling you to do? How is He calling you to participate in a new way?

Friday

Since we are called to watch and wait for the Lord with others, this also means that we are called to grow our community and to invite others to watch and wait with us. Who in your family and friends will you invite to an event at church this Advent? Who can you reach out to, and invite to a Christmas Mass? Plan which Mass you will go to so that you can invite others too!

Saturday

We are called to watch and wait for the Lord with patience and with love. We are called to be patient with the Lord, with our friends and family, and with strangers that we meet each day. How are you at being patient and loving every day? Today, while you are out and about shopping, working and going about your day, work to be patient with everyone!



FROM THE CATECHISM...

The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the 'First Covenant'. He announces Him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 522

Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm 85:9-10,11-12,13-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynnatholic.org