



Bringing Home the Word

First Sunday of Advent (A)
November 30, 2025

The Waiting Game

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

If Advent is a time of waiting, then our entire lives must be an advent, for we spend so much of our lives waiting—as children, for Santa to come with his sack of surprises and for the dizzying lure of summertime. Later, we eagerly wait to get our driver's licenses and then to move out on our own and get our first real jobs and the independence this phase of life promises. We wait for love to find us and, for some, for love to return. Some wait for children, others for the empty nest, and others for retirement.

Our mothers told us not to wish our lives away, yet we did, and still we do, as we wait for life to be more than what it seems to be. Then, one day, we look back and wish we could have again all that once was. So, maybe Advent is not about waiting for God to make a splash in our lives. Maybe Advent is about God waiting for us to come around and recognize that he is with us here and now.

The question for each of us, then, is what are we waiting for at this point in our lives? There is no right answer, only the one each of us has for ourselves. Whatever it is, there is no doubt that there is love or joy or peace or meaning at the heart of it, all camouflaged by whatever we say we are waiting for. Beneath it all is the hunger for God-With-Us. †

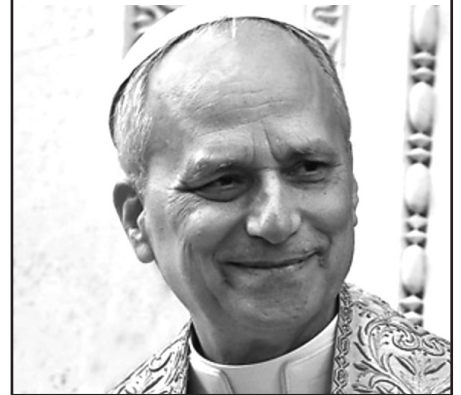


***Maybe Advent is not
about waiting for God,
but about God waiting
for us to recognize that he
is with us here and now.***

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

We are called to offer God's love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity that does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people. Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 2:1–5

In days to come...
One nation shall not raise the sword
against another,
nor shall they train for war again.

Romans 13:11–14

Let us then throw off the works of
darkness [and] put on the armor of
light.

Matthew 24:37–44

[Jesus said,] "So too, you also
must be prepared, for at an hour
you do not expect, the Son of Man
will come."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Have you experienced God's presence in others?
- Have you been a sign of God's presence to those around you?



Looking Back and Preparing for the Future

Mark G. Boyer

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

—“Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” verse 4

***We stand together
during Advent,
united in hope.***

In today's readings, Isaiah records his vision of the mountain of the LORD's house being established as the highest mountain, and all people streaming toward Jerusalem to enjoy the everlasting peace of God's kingdom. Paul tells the Romans that salvation is nearer today than when we first believed. Every day that passes brings us closer to the day of Christ's return in glory. We look back to his birth in a lowly manger on Christmas morning even as we look forward to the fullness of salvation when he comes again.

The first two weeks of Advent are focused on preparing ourselves for the Lord's second coming. Jesus makes clear in Matthew's Gospel that his arrival will be unexpected, like a thief in the night. As Noah prepared for the flood, we should prepare for Christ's return in glory. While we may question when that day will arrive, we stand together during Advent, united in hope in order to prepare for that day. When the Son of Man comes, those who are prepared will be taken, and the unprepared will be left.

During the solemn Advent season, we stop and take inventory of our lives so that we can be prepared for Christ's return in glory. We want to examine our daily prayer rituals to be sure that they have not become routine. We want to pay attention to how well we are living our baptismal promises: renouncing evil and professing our faith in our Triune God. Advent preparation includes less rushing around and more quiet reflection—a stark contrast to our cultural Christmas frenzy. ‡

From *Caroling Through Advent and Christmas* by Mark G. Boyer (© 2014 Mark G. Boyer). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Let Heaven and Nature Sing: The Stories Behind Favorite Christmas Songs” by Lawrence Livingston

“Good King Wenceslas” is based on a Czech poem about a king who sets out, along with his page, on the second day of Christmastide to take food and firewood to a poor family several miles away. At one point, the exhausted page says he can't go on through the deep snow, but when he is encouraged by the king to step in the king's own footprints, he is able to continue. The song, a metaphor for the Christian journey, is loosely based on the life of St. Wenceslas, who was a duke in tenth-century Bohemia and renowned for his kindness and beloved by his people.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Lord Jesus, so that the world
may know of your presence
among us, we pray ...
Be born in us, be born in our
world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 1–6

Monday, Advent Weekday:

Is 4:2–6 / Mt 8:5–11

Tuesday, Advent Weekday:

Is 11:1–10 / Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday, St. Francis Xavier:

Is 25:6–10a / Mt 15:29–37

Thursday, Advent Weekday:


Is 26:1–6 / Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday, Advent Weekday:

Is 29:17–24 / Mt 9:27–31

Saturday, Advent Weekday:

Is 30:19–21, 23–26 / Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8

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