

Dear Padre,

Is Advent a penitential season?

Strictly speaking, the penitential times in the Church are “every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent” (*Code of Canon Law*, 1250). Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s First Coming is remembered, and this remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. (See *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 39.) While Advent is more anticipatory than penitential, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.” Although, historically, Advent was similar to Lent as a forty-day period of prayer and fasting, it was less severe than the season preceding Easter, and it lacked uniformity in the Western Church. The Eastern Church still begins the Nativity Fast on November 15, while in the Western Church, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.

Regardless, the significant focus of Advent is our Lord’s coming (*adventus* in Latin). The Church reflects this anticipation of Advent through such practices as limiting floral arrangements in the sanctuary, simpler liturgical music, and omitting the Gloria at Mass until Christmas. We can also reflect the anticipation of Advent through such spiritual practices as participation in works of charity, moderation in shopping, celebration of the sacrament of penance, fasting on Fridays, and prayerful contemplation on our Savior’s Incarnation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



KATARNAG / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7
Advent	Advent	St. Francis	Advent	Advent	Advent	Second Sunday of Advent
Weekday	Weekday	Xavier, Priest	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	
Is 4:2–6	Is 11:1–10	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Is 29:17–24	Is 30:19–21, 23–26	Is 11:1–10
Mt 8:5–11	Lk 10:21–24	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Mt 9:27–31	Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8	Rom 15:4–9
						Mt 3:1–12



CHAZ MUTH / CNS

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We are called to offer God’s love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which 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



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 2:1–5 / Romans 13:11–14 / Matthew 24:37–44



Waiting, but Quick!

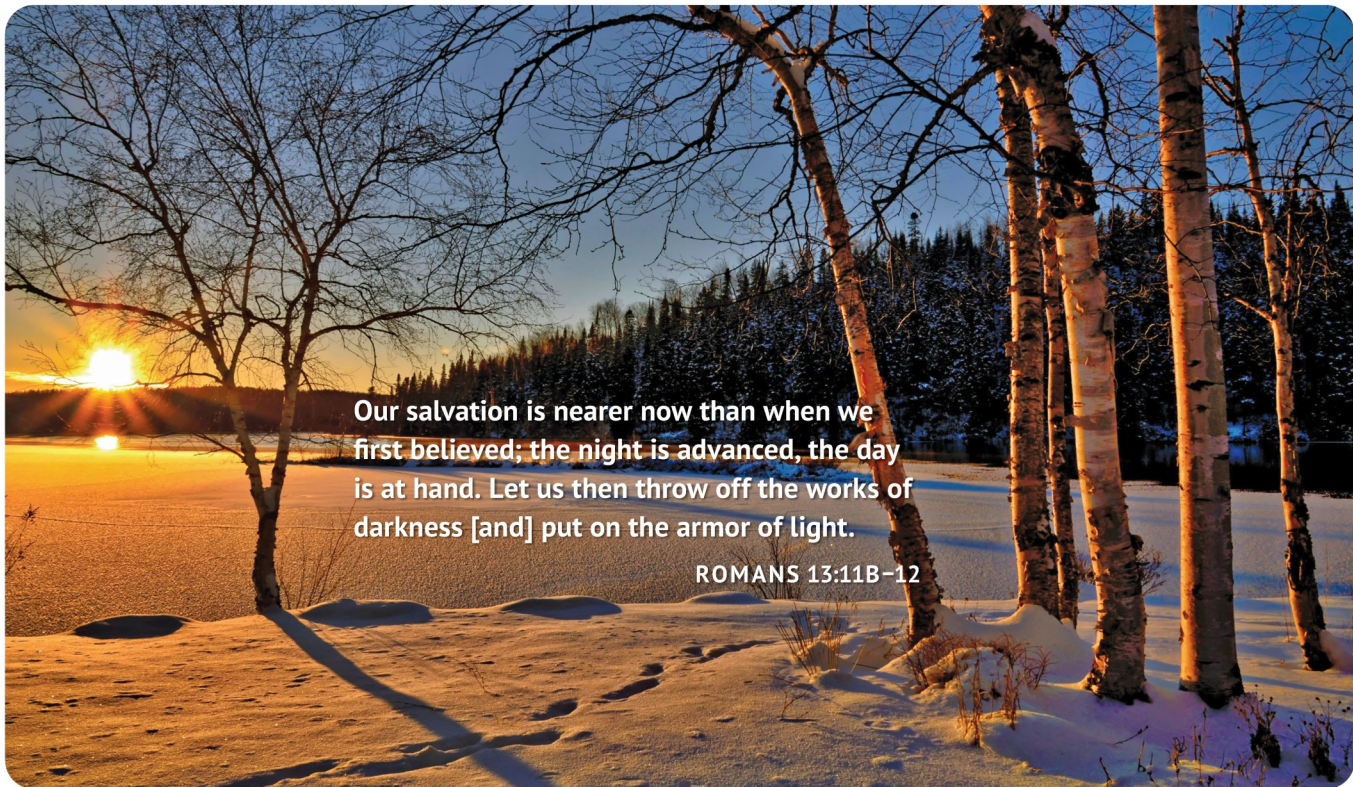
MIGUEL DULICK

This is the first Sunday of Advent, and the excitement is palpable. Writing 800 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah sounds like breaking news: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” The psalmist announces we are already there: “And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.” Saint Paul tickles our fancy with another whole round of “revelation” yet to come “on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Only Jesus himself seems a little cautious: “Be watchful! Be alert!” The Lord “is coming,” but he’s not here yet. Leave it to Jesus to force the paradox for which Advent seems to have been created: Jesus is present, but we dare not “sleep,” lest we miss him!

How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the “Merry Christmas!” / “Happy Holidays!” debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there’s no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries to slow us down and encourage a little reflecting to prepare the way, led by John the Baptist. So let’s keep waiting; let’s hold on to our peace. Christmas Eve will be here soon enough. But let’s not be too austere. A full menu of holiday parties and concerts and family feasts can legitimately “anticipate” Christmas. Let’s cheer each other: Merry Advent! ●

Reflect

What can I do to prepare for Christmas mindfully, peacefully, and joyfully?



Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light.

ROMANS 13:11B–12



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

First Sunday of Advent
November 29 & 30, 2025



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

First Sunday of Advent
November 29 & 30, 2025

Parish Announcements

Advent Stations

We will be doing the devotion The Eight Stations of Advent, after the 7:00 AM Mass on Mondays throughout the Advent season. Please join us for this added time of prayer.

Blessing of the Doors

Bishop Kopaz will be blessing our new doors December 7th after the 10:30 AM Mass. He will also be joining us for our Parish Christmas party following the blessing. Please join us after Mass for this special moment. There will be no Confession in preparation for the day's activities.

Parish Christmas Party

Our Parish Christmas party will be on December 7th following the 10:30 AM Mass, and all are invited! The main dish for the meal will be provided. Please visit our Meal Train website to sign up to bring a side dish. Go to Mealtrain.com and type in the link: mealtrain.com/potlucks/4g7k58

I Give Catholic

Giving Tuesday for I Give Catholic is December 2nd. Thank you to all who have contributed so far. If you haven't had a chance and would like to give, please go to <https://www.igivecatholic.org/organization/st.paul-catholic-church-vicksburg> or grab an envelope in the back of the church. The money raised will go toward beautification of the church.

Adoration

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, December 10th at 5:30 PM.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

St. Paul is establishing a Men's Prayer Breakfast group. If you are interested in participating, please let us know by calling the church office or emailing us at stpaulvick@att.net. Our organizational meeting will be January 11 @ 8:00 AM in Farrell Hall. Breakfast will be served.

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget\$7,700

Online Giving

Nov 10 - Nov 16 \$1,240

Weekend Offertory

Oct 25—26 \$3,168

Nov 1 & 2 \$5,869

Nov 8 & 9 \$6,427

Nov 15 & 16 \$3,488

Nov 22 & 23 \$3,722

Special Collections

November 16: Catholic Campaign for Human Development....\$280



Sign up for automatic online giving at www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

#Confession 3:15-3:45 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

#Confession 9:45-10:15 AM
Mass 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM
Tuesday 12:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 AM
Thursday 12:00 PM
Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

DEC 1, MON Rad Styron, Deceased
DEC 2, TUES Mary Martha Hilbun, Deceased
DEC 3, WED Jean Rogillio, Deceased
DEC 4, THUR Special Intentions
DEC 5, FRI Angela Canizaro, Deceased
DEC 6, SAT Rad Styron, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no intention is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent	Office Manager Ashley Roesch	Office Assistant Janis Koestler
Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly	Maintenance Charles Hahn	Organist Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President Kevin Mahoney	Finance Council Chair Bill Fulcher
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Bereavement Story Ebersole	RCIA Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole	Meals On Wheels Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry
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Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano	Homebound Janis Koestler	Children's Church Ashley Lawrence
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Baptism Prep Barbara Hill	Confirmation Jordan Amborn
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Parish Calendar

NOV 30, SUN	Children's Church: Led by Ashley Lawrence
DEC 1, MON	Offertory Counters: Jan Jackson & Paul Banchetti
DEC 3, WED	RCIA 6:00 PM in Glynn Hall
DEC 6, SAT	Meals on Wheels
DEC 7, SUN	Blessing of the Doors & Parish Christmas Party

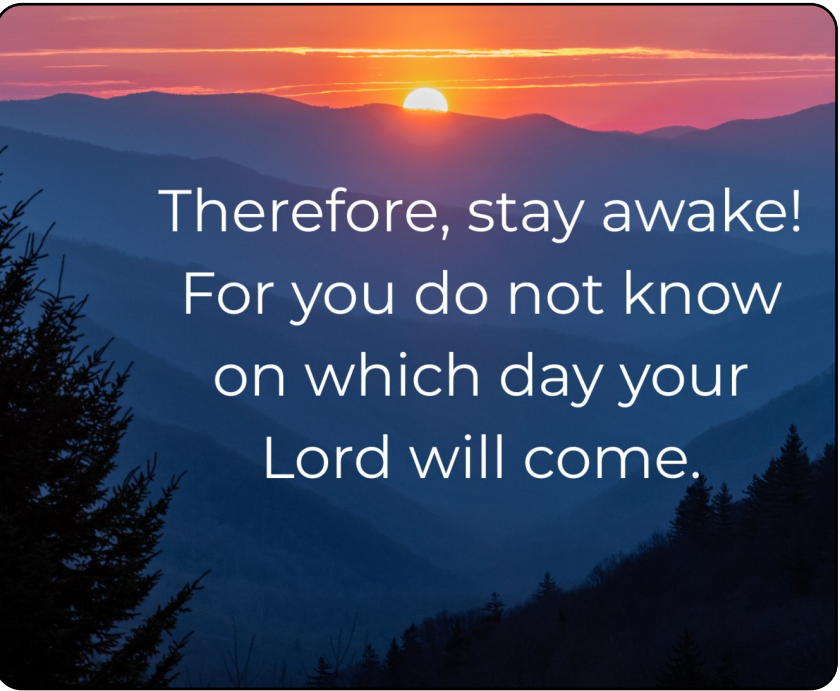
Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>
www.ms-kofc.com/898

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DEC 2	Rosary 6:30 PM followed by Council Meeting
DEC 3	Bible Study following 5:30 PM Mass
DEC 6	Meals on Wheels



Today's Readings

Visit bible.usccb.org or scan this QR code to find the readings



Check out our Social Media!

St. Paul Catholic Church

@stpaulvicksburg

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 @frrustyvinct