

# Dear Padre,

**My husband of fifty years has no medical issues with his hearing, but he still doesn't listen to me in conversation. How can I feel heard?**

I humbly suggest that your husband read this edition of "Dear Padre." You might leave this bulletin someplace where he will see it.

"Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice," wrote Shakespeare in *Hamlet*. Likewise, the Bible reads, "Everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak" (James 1:19).

Good listening skills require effort and discipline. Researchers say that only about 10 percent of us listen effectively. Generally, people hear only a fraction of what someone says. Moreover, during an emotional conflict, we tend to hear even less of what another is saying. Nevertheless, Pope Francis said, "We are called to meet others and listen to their life, their cry for help." He called listening "an act of love!" In other words, being available to listen to someone in need is an expression of charity, and being present to others—a spouse, a friend, the bereaved, for example—may actually speak louder than words.

In conversations, people feel heard when their feelings are validated and restated by the listener. But often the listener finds it easier to give advice, fix the problem, or win an argument, than to actively hear what the speaker is trying to communicate. It's advisable to eliminate distractions when someone wants to engage in an important conversation. People don't feel heard when a listener's short attention span wants to resume watching television. Nor do they feel respected during a serious phone conversation while the click of a computer mouse or yawning is overheard!



—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

## Calendar

**Monday**  
NOVEMBER 30  
St. Andrew,  
Apostle  
Rom 10:9–18  
Mt 4:18–22

**Tuesday**  
DECEMBER 1  
Advent Weekday  
Is 11:1–10  
Lk 10:21–24

**Wednesday**  
DECEMBER 2  
Advent Weekday  
Is 25:6–10a  
Mt 15:29–37

**Thursday**  
DECEMBER 3  
St. Francis Xavier,  
Priest  
Is 26:1–6  
Mt 7:21, 24–27

**Friday**  
DECEMBER 4  
Advent Weekday  
Is 29:17–24  
Mt 9:27–31

**Saturday**  
DECEMBER 5  
Advent Weekday  
Is 30:19–21, 23–26  
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8

**Sunday**  
DECEMBER 6  
Second Sunday  
of Advent  
Is 40:1–5, 9–11  
2 Pt 3:8–14  
Mk 1:1–8

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 29, 2020  
First Sunday of Advent (B)  
Is 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7  
1 Cor 1:3–9  
Mk 13:33–37



Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know  
when the time will come.  
MARK 13:33

## Hurry Up and Wait!

**W**e've all had this experience. We rush to get ready...and then we wait: at the doctor's office, for a train, at a restaurant. For what do we hurry up and wait this Sunday? Some might say we are waiting for the birth of Jesus. But today's readings don't say this. The first reading describes people waiting for relief from the guilt of their sinfulness. Paul talks about waiting for "the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" at the end time (1 Corinthians 1:7). The people in the Gospel are waiting for the return of the householder to settle accounts. There's no waiting for Christmas—yet.

For what should we wait if not Christmas? Isaiah tells us to hurry up and change our lives of pettiness, selfishness, and arrogance, and then to wait for the graciousness of God to "rend the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 63:19). Paul tells us to hurry up and

embrace "the grace of God bestowed on [us] in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4), and then to wait for the final revelation of his glory. The Gospel tells us to hurry up, be alert and ready for Christ's return, and then to wait for it to happen.

If we don't prepare ourselves for the coming of God in the reality of our own lives, we might not recognize this salvation when it comes. We're not waiting for an event that happened in the past; we are waiting for the grace of God that is calling us into the future. So, hurry up and wait!

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- If you are waiting for salvation, from what weakness or sin must you be saved?
- How are you readying yourself for that salvation to take root in your life?



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say....Often the other spouse does not need a solution to his or her problems, but simply to be heard, to feel that someone has acknowledged their pain, their disappointment, their fear, their anger.

—AMORIS LAETITIA, MARCH 19, 2016



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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, Nov. 30      8:00 a.m.      For Rain**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 1      8:00 a.m.      Geubelle Families**  
**Thursday, Dec. 3     8:00 a.m.      Special Intention**  
**Friday, Dec. 4        8:00 a.m.      LaVera Strecker**  
**Saturday, Dec. 5     4:00 p.m.      Ross & Kelly Geubelle**  
**Sunday, Dec. 6        9:00 a.m.      For the People**

November 28, 4:00 p.m.      Tom Bachman  
 November 29, 9:00 a.m.      Alvin Berkamp  
 December 5, 4:00 p.m.        Karen Burden  
 December 6, 9:00 a.m.        Julie Kaps  
 December 12, 4:00 p.m.        Tom Bachman  
 December 13, 9:00 a.m.        Mike Broeckelman  
 December 19, 4:00 p.m.        Gwen Waechter  
 December 20, 9:00 a.m.        K of C Members  
 December 24, 4:00 p.m.        Volunteer  
 December 26, 4:00 p.m.        Debbie Frederick  
 December 27, 9:00 a.m.        Steve Sullivan

*Thank you so much for your ministry!*

**VOCATION VIEW**  
 Even to the birds was it said, “Be fruitful and multiply.” Do you wish to hold as a great blessing what was given to birds? Who can be ignorant, that it was given indeed by the voice of God? But use these goods, if you receive them; and rather think how you may nourish those who have been born, that others may be born. *Saint Augustine*

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT**  
 We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

**A FEW WORDS FROM THE PASTOR** My Dear Parishioners: Greetings in the Lord on this First Sunday of Advent. What’s Advent for?  
 As a child I didn’t think much about Advent. And I probably wouldn’t have even known this season had a name if it wasn’t for Advent calendars. I loved those. They helped me count down the days to Christmas, the day on which I would get presents. That really was what it was all about for me. And I guess that makes total sense. I knew that we were somehow celebrating Jesus’ “birthday” --- but beyond that this season was all about making my list for Santa. And this season was also about daydreaming at school as I looked forward to a couple of weeks off. After all, I was a kid.  
 I’d like to say that Advent is much different for me as an adult --- but that wouldn’t be entirely accurate. And yes --- I know I have very specific duties during this time as my role as clergy, but make no mistake about it --- I am on the exact same journey as all of you. I don’t want to feel burdened or overwhelmed by this season. I don’t want to dread all the things that I’m expected to be at, or preside at --- things that sometimes leave me exhausted. I don’t want to have to spend a lot of time shopping for presents and sending cards and such. I guess the simplest way to put it is --- I don’t want to feel the way many of you feel. I don’t want to be thinking, “I can’t wait for it all to be over.” But what exactly do I want from this holy season? I guess I want something. But what is that something? I’m not exactly sure. And so, I ask again --- what is Advent for? What do I want from this holy season? Something. Something. Something. And you know what? If I’m open to it --- I’m guaranteed to get it.  
 The Gospel passage from Mark this Sunday (Mark 13: 33-37) has a sense of urgency about it. We’re told to be watchful and alert. We’re told to stay awake and not be caught sleeping. We’re told that someone is coming, but we won’t know exactly when --- and therefore, we better not get caught off guard.  
 Do we believe it? Do we embrace it? Are we ready? Are we watchful?  
 The gift we can expect to receive this Christmas morning, the gift we are waiting for, is exactly the same for each of us. And this gift of course, is not a thing but a person --- the person of Jesus. He is the one each of us is waiting for, longing for, hoping for.  
 And so, even though Advent is a time of waiting, this “waiting” is not a passive thing. It’s not going to “happen” by accident. It takes our full attention. It takes focus. It takes us being watchful and alert and awake. And what are we waiting for? We’re waiting for a person . . . a person who promises to make something wonderful happen within each of our hearts and minds and souls: Jesus. Have a blessed Advent everyone.

**COLLECTION** for November 22, 2020: Envelopes: \$445.00; Loose: \$96.00; Online Giving: \$188.17; Total \$729.17; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55. Income over/under (-1,260.38) *Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*



**YUMMY BIEROCKS** Due to the spread of Covid –19 K of C Members have to move their bierocks making to a different date. Hopefully, the first or second week of January we will know the exact date. We are truly sorry for causing any inconvenience. Thank you and stay safe & healthy.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** Your Offering Envelopes for the coming year are available at the Church's Vestibule. Please pick up yours and thank you so very much for your generous and faithful contributions for supporting our Parish.

**UPCOMING DECEMBER MEETING** Pastoral Council meeting—12/2 at 5:30 p.m.; K o C meeting – 12/2 at 7:30 p.m.; Finance Council meeting –12/3 at 5:30 p.m. We are invited to attend our meetings or if you have some concerns and would like to bring them to the meetings please let one of our members know. Thank You.

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS** The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe falls on Saturday, December 12 this year. Due to having two Spanish Masses, one in Syracuse at 11:00 a.m. (MT) and the other here in our church at 3:00 p.m. Our English Mass at 4:00 p.m. will be cancelled. We are truly sorry for causing any inconvenience. Please know that Saturday Mass in Deerfield at 6:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS** Christmas Eve Mass this year will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m.

**DIOCESAN YOUTH BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM** Will be on Thursdays at 7 p.m. this school year. This is for any high schooler in the diocese. There is a 12 student limit per cycle, so please register as soon as possible at this link. <https://form.jotform.com/70245772477160>. Jan. 7-Feb. 18; Mar. 4-May 22 (excluding Holy Thursday) Contact Emma Showalter at [dcyouth@dcdiocese.org](mailto:dcyouth@dcdiocese.org) for questions.

**DECEMBER CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES** Confirmation Class **December 6, 13.** First Communion class: **December 2, 9, & 16.** Please keep our First Communion and Confirmation students, their parents, and their Catechists in our prayers for their safety and perseverance.

### UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK (MARK 13: 33-37)

**When will he come back?** The above question was a popular one among Christians. The ones for whom Mark wrote his Gospel seem to have been persecuted, perhaps violently, because of their faith. These Christians must have wondered how much longer they had to endure their suffering before Christ came in glory. Mark can't give his community a specific time (v.32), but he can urge them in the words of Jesus to remain faithful no matter how long the wait.

**Until then...** Jesus tells a parable in which the master of the house entrusts his servants with particular tasks (v.34). The servants must attend to these tasks until their lord returns. When he does return, he will assess how well they met their obligations. They must, therefore, work diligently until then. The passage urges us to live as if Christ will come at any moment and ask for an account of how well we have met the demands of Christian discipleship.

**The long night** In Jesus' day traveling by night was dangerous. Given the absence of cars and streetlights, people on roads were easily attacked. This parable, however, suggests that the master could return during the night, which emphasizes how unexpected Christ's return will be and our need to be ready at all times. The Romans divided the night into four sections or "watches." These time frames correspond to parts of Jesus' passion, which is about to begin.

- in the evening Jesus has his last supper with his disciples
- during the night Jesus is arrested
- when the cock crows Peter denies knowing Jesus
- in the morning Jesus is taken to Pilate Just before he is arrested, Jesus prays in Gethsemane, where his three closest followers are neither watchful nor alert. <https://oursundayreadings>

### PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from James Martineau)

Eternal God, you commit to us the swift and solemn trust of life. Since we know not what a day may bring forth but only that the hour for serving you is always present, may we wake to the instant claims of your holy will, not waiting for tomorrow, but yielding today. Lay to rest, by the persuasion of your Spirit, the resistance of self-interest, apathy, and fear. Lift us into faith, hope and love. Give us a simple and steadfast reliance on your will. In all things draw us to Christ. Amen.

## QUESTION & ANSWER



Q: Why do Catholics bless themselves, genuflect, and so on?

Many rituals that your parents may have performed or your parochial schoolteachers insisted on when you walked into sacred space fall under the heading of personal pieties. Enter any city church and you're likely to see a host of ethnically rooted expressions of faith: people kissing statues, moving up the aisles on their knees, leaving rosaries around the necks of madonnas or handwritten prayers rubber-banded to the hands of Jesus. Dollar bills origami-ed into the shape of hearts are becoming popular in the candle offering box, too.

While these practices are meaningful to their practitioners, they are not "officially" Catholic gestures. Blessing yourself—that is, making the Sign of the Cross “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”—is, however, a formal ritual gesture of the church. It marks you as a Christian, and it is the way both public Catholic prayer begins as it is for the most personal expression of thanks before and after meals. It also reminds Christians of their belief in three “persons” in one God.

The full Sign of the Cross includes touching the forehead, heart, and both shoulders, signifying acceptance of the demands of discipleship over our thoughts, desires, and deeds. A smaller version, performed before the proclamation of the gospel at Mass, involves making a thumb sketch of the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart while praying silently, “May the Lord be on my mind, on my lips, and in my heart, that I may be worthy to proclaim the gospel.” At the start of Lent, it's also customary to bear the Sign of the Cross in ashes on the forehead.

Genuflection, or touching down one knee accompanied by the Sign of the Cross, is a particular gesture made only in a Catholic church or other place designated for worship. It's a sign of reverence toward the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Sometimes the reverence is directed toward the table of the Lord (the altar) if Mass is to be celebrated. Otherwise, genuflection is to be directed toward the tabernacle, where the real presence remains in the consecrated hosts. For those who cannot genuflect, a simple bow is sufficient. These movements are not magical but reminders that we are incarnate beings who believe in a God who chose to become a Word made flesh. (Alice Camille)

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN**

Nothing is more empowering than a fresh start. Advent brings with it a new gospel to guide us through the new liturgical year: Mark, the shortest of the four narratives about Jesus. Consider reading all 16 chapters at the start of the liturgical year to grasp the breathless beauty of Mark's story. Reflect on other ways to stay alert to new spiritual discoveries, in keeping with Jesus' summons: “Watch!” Pay attention, not just to the news of the day but also to the movements of the Spirit in you. Where might you be prompted to forgive, be generous, get involved, or keep silent? Prepare the Word)

### **PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO**

#### **Mantén los ojos abiertos**

Nada es más poderoso que un nuevo comienzo. El Adviento trae consigo un nuevo evangelio para guiarnos a través del nuevo año litúrgico: Marcos, el más corto de los cuatro relatos sobre Jesús. Considera la lectura de los 16 capítulos al comienzo del año litúrgico para captar la belleza maravillosa de la historia de Marcos. Reflexiona sobre otras formas de estar alerta a nuevos descubrimientos espirituales, de acuerdo con el llamado de Jesús: "¡Miren!" Presten atención, no sólo a las noticias del día, sino también a los movimientos del Espíritu en ustedes. ¿Adónde podrías ser incitado a perdonar, ser generoso, involucrarte, o guardar silencio?