

# ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

### SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY: DEACON MODESTO CORDERO

“Jesus is coming soon. Look busy!”

Look busy! Looking busy would certainly be one way of describing many of us at the start of Advent. We are busy. And we will likely get busier as Christmas day approaches – busy with shopping, card-writing, parties – all that goes into preparing for Christmas. But it is not busyness that the prophet Isaiah had in mind when, in the first reading he says of God, “You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.” Isaiah give us a clue to how we should be acting during Advent and, indeed, throughout the entire liturgical year that begins this weekend – doing right, remembering God and God’s ways. Be watchful! Be alert! On the gospel of the apostle Mark we are called this Advent to be watchful, to be prepared, and to recognize the signs of the times. Advent urges us to “stay awake” and not to sleep through the opportunities life gives us to discover God in our midst. Advent calls us to “watch,” to pay attention to the signs of God’s unmistakable presence in our lives, to live life expectantly not as a death sentence but as a gift from God. We begin a new liturgical year at the end of time. Jesus’ brief parable of the master’s return is a call to realize the trust God has placed in us in the present to create his kingdom of justice and peace to transcend all time. Jesus counters the conventional fears of the apocalypse with “signs” of hope and new beginnings. Our lives are an Advent, a prelude, to the life of God to come. While confronting us with the reality that our lives are finite and fragile, these Sundays of Advent also assure us of the mercy of God, who is with us in the midst of all the struggles of our everyday Advent journey to the dwelling place of God. Advent challenges us to see our lives not as a disjointed set of experiences and circumstances but as a pilgrimage to the dwelling place of God – a journey in which every moment, every step is a new revelation of God’s presence in our midst. God is both the road and the destination of our pilgrimage.

Have a blessed Advent!

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Weekday** (Mon - Sat): 8:00 AM

**Sunday**: (Sat. Vigil) 5 PM,  
(Sun) 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM, 6 PM

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturdays**: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM  
(or by appointment)

### MISSION / VISION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic Christian Community, called to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: *Word, Sacrament, Renewal Programs, Ministry/Service*, and other ***Spirit-led*** activities. We dedicate our time, talent and treasure to install, in our parish community, the basic building blocks of Christian living, ***to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all through our words, deeds, and lives.***

**Parish Rectory Hours**

**Monday:** 12:00 PM-4:30 PM  
**Tues. - Fri.:** 8:00 AM-4:30 PM  
**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed

**Outreach Office Hours**

**Mon. - Wed.:** 9 AM to 2 PM  
**Thurs. - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM  
**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed

**FOOD PANTRY Hours**

**Mon. - Wed.:** 9 AM to 12 PM  
**Thurs. - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM

**Religious Ed Office Hours**

**Monday:** Closed  
**Tues. - Thurs.:** 12 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Fri.:** 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
**Saturday:** 2:00—5:00 pm  
**Sun:** 7:00 am - 1:00pm

**PARISH CLERGY & STAFF**

**Pastor** (ext. 111)

*Msgr. John Mbinda*

*jmbinda@rcchawaii.org*

**Parochial Vicar** (x 104)

*Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa*

*jayinpuusa@rcchawaii.org*

**Deacon** Modesto Cordero

*mcordero@rcchawaii.org*

**Deacon** Romeo Ganibe

*rganibe@rcchawaii.org*

**Parish Office Administrator** (x 103)

*Jolly Guerrero-Tano*

*jollygt@rcchawaii.org*

**Parish Secretary** (x 100)

*Dominique Kekiwi*

*dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org*

**Director of Liturgy**

*Nicholas Calzada*

*ncalzada@rcchawaii.org*

**Grounds & Maintenance**

*Robert Garnsey*

*rgarnsey@rcchawaii.org*

**Outreach Department** (x 203)

*Pearl Bates*

*pebates@rcchawaii.org*

**RCIA Coordinators**

*Dcn. Modesto Cordero*

*Dcn. Romeo Ganibe*

**Religious Ed. Director** (x 206)

*Julie Quiroz-Zamora*

*jquiroz@rcchawaii.org*

**Religious Ed. Secretary** (x 204)

*Dominique Kekiwi*

*dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org*

**Preschool Director** (744-9538)

*Catherine Awong*

*cawong@rcchawaii.org*

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Advent: The Reason for the Season

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is twofold: 1) a preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent; 2) the anticipation of the return of Christ the King. Advent helps us to reflect on the mystery of how God, in his divine providence, prepared the entire human race for salvation through God's gradual revelation of Christ, born in history of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we prepare to remember this event, we relive that history and prepare ourselves spiritually. We relive in expectation of the birth of our Savior. The Advent days help to prepare us spiritually for the coming of Christ.

Thus, Advent is a spiritual journey that we as Christians take, through the truths of Scripture that point to the birth of the Messiah. The themes we will meet during the four weeks of Advent are: Hope, Peace, Joy and God's love for his people. The readings of Advent in a special way prepare us for the journey towards Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent the Gospel from Mark underlines watching and waiting. The Second Sunday of Advent the gospel will draw our attention to the preaching and ministry of John the Baptist who came to "Prepare the Way of the Lord." On the Third Sunday, (Laetare Sunday), the Gospel from John will speak about John the Baptist as being a witness to the light, while the first and second readings convey the joy that Christians feel with the increasing closeness of the nativity and our salvation. On the Fourth Sunday, the Gospel from Luke will focus our attention on the Annunciation to Mary, who by her saying "Yes" to God, the Savoir comes into the world.

May you have a blessed and fruitful Advent journey.

*Msgr. John S. Mbinda*

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 "Be generous and you will be prosperous; help others and you will be helped."  
 (Good News Translation) - Prov 11:25  
 .....

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

### First Day of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7

The words of prophet Isaiah in this passage give voice to the cry of a people who are broken and in need of restoration. They call upon the Lord to return to them and to show again the favor of his presence. Yet they realize that God has not walked out on them, rather it is they who have been unfaithful to him. God is addressed as Father and Redeemer because human attempts at salvation have failed. Now in humility the people confess their guilt to God who is their Father and Creator. We are all the work of God's hands.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Psalm 80 similar to the first reading is a prayer of the chosen people crying to God as their Shepherd for care and protection. Response: "Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In this passage, Paul thanks God for the variety of gifts manifested in the Christian community of Corinth. He reminds them that in spite of all their knowledge, they are still waiting for the revelation of Jesus Christ, who will sustain them till the end. In other words, salvation comes from the power of God, who calls us all to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Advent begins with a call to watchfulness. That is why the Gospel passage of this Sunday highlights Jesus' teaching on the signs that would characterize the last days. Jesus is not giving a schedule to predict his final coming, but rather he is underlining what sort of watchfulness is demanded of his followers. We cannot wait passively or occupy ourselves with our own interests, even if they are spiritual interests, but must work diligently for the advancement of his kingdom as his servants —each of us with our own gifts, abilities, and particular tasks. On the one hand, we are told to open our eyes to read the signs of the times, but on the other hand, even the vigilant will be surprised at the suddenness of the fulfillment.

**Follow Msgr. John's Homilies! Blog**  
(text): [www.sundayhomily.com](http://www.sundayhomily.com)

**Podcast (audio):** <https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

**iTunes (audio):** [Streaming Homilies](#)

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Monday, December 4, 2017 (8 am)**

†Felicidad Fernandez

(Death Anniversary)

†Donald F. McHenry

†Marina Guerrero

**Tuesday, December 5, 2017 (8 am)**

Lisa Bartolome-Lopez

(Birthday Blessing)

†Sonny & Tessie Aquino

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017 (8 am)**

†Thomas & Claudia Borowitz

†Orly B. Ceon

†Agreda Acebo

**Thursday, December 7, 2017 (8 am)**

†Alan D. Pearson

†Sonny & Tessie Aquino

†James Michael Hunkele

**Friday, December 8, 2017 (8 am)**

†Richard P. Tesoro

(Birthday Memorial)

†Albert W. Porras Jr.

(Birthday Memorial)

†Johnnie Gallogly

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**

**8 am** Connie Amigo

(Birthday Blessing)

†Sueko Calhoun

**5 pm** †Petra Garcia Flores

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

**7am** †Sonny & Tessie Aquino

**9 am** For the People

**11 am** †Sueko Calhoun

**6 pm** †Petra Garcia Flores

†Rest in Peace †

**HEALING / BLESSINGS:** Ben & Helen Guerrero, Santiago Tumpap, Bella Rillamas, Norma & Ethan Belamide, Jane Alukonis, Rosalie Tadda, Rowena, Eric, & Ryan Asuncion, Warren Chalmers, Carrie Becky, Deacon Modesto Cordero, Cheryl Solomon, Clyde Sauget, Felisa Rapisura, Linda Osdieck, David Hall, Evelyn Quinata, Shirley Del Rosario, Carol Towne, Darling & Ron Bunda, baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, David Torres, Jack & Ellen Cleghorn and all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

**DECEASED:** Rudolfo "Rudy" Rapisura, Mina Lee, Masashi Kamiya, Violet Y. Chun, Antonia Peralta Galicinao, Florentino Tamondong, Sr., Kang Moreno, Lucy Lanas, Wendell Serrao, Marina Guerrero, Palamene Pselio, Alan Pearson, "Bestray" Sarsona, Jovita Daclan, Orly B. Ceon, James M. Hunkele, Larry Butcher, Teresita Aquino, Rosalina V. Bayona & Agreda Acebo.

**Central Vicariate Penance Service**

Wednesday, December 6, 2017—7 pm,  
Resurrection of the Lord, Waipio

Tuesday, December 12, 2017—7 pm  
St. Elizabeth, Aiea

Wednesday, December 13, 2017—7 pm  
St. John A&E, Mililani

Tuesday, December 19, 2017—7 pm  
Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa

Wednesday, December 20, 2017—7 pm  
St. Michael, Waiialua

Friday, December 22, 2017—7 pm  
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City



**Advent & Christmas Schedule**

First Sunday of Advent— December 3  
Immaculate Conception— December 8  
(Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses: 8am & 7pm

Parish Advent Retreat— December 11-12, 7:00 pm

**BECOMING THE BODY OF CHRIST:**

**CONNECT, ENGAGE, WITNESS, EVANGELIZE**

Speaker: Fr. Philip Chircop, SJ

Advent Penance Service- December 13, 7:00 pm

Misa de Gallo— December 16-24 (5:00 am)

Dec. 16— Msgr. John Mbinda

Dec. 17— Fr. Pat McCormick

Dec. 18— Fr. Edmund Barut

Dec. 19— Fr. Philip Chircop

Dec. 20— Bishop Larry Silva

Dec. 21— Fr. Norlito Concepcion

Dec. 22— Fr. Rheo Ofalsa

Dec. 23— Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa

Dec. 24— Msgr. John Mbinda

Church Offices will be closed December 22 & 25 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas.

To fulfill your Sunday Obligation (4th Sunday of Advent), please plan on attending one of the following Masses:

Saturday, December 23— 5pm Mass

Sunday, December 24 - 5 am (Misa de Gallo),  
7am, 9am, 11am

To fulfill your Christmas Obligations, please plan on attending one of the following masses:

Christmas Eve Masses— December 24- 6pm & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses— December 25- 7am, 9am, & 11am

No 6:00 PM Mass

**The next 24-hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

will be held on *Friday, January 5*, immediately after the 8 am Mass, ending at 7:30 am on *Saturday, January 6*.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE	NOV 25/26
<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 13,042.55</b>
Children's Collection	\$ 2.50
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 2,270.50
<b>Building, Equipment, and Maintenance (BEM)</b>	<b>\$ 849.50</b>
<b>One Community Center</b>	
<b>Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)</b>	<b>\$ 3,034.88</b>
<b>Candle Sales</b>	<b>\$ 522.05</b>
<b>Donation - Social Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Donation - Charity</b>	<b>\$ 65.51</b>
<b>Donation— Baptism</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>
<b>Donation— Funeral</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>Donation— All Souls Day</b>	<b>\$ 7.50</b>
<b>Donation— Angel Tree Network</b>	<b>\$ 220.00</b>
<b>Donation— Youth &amp; Young Adults</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Donation— Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 95.00</b>
<b>Donation— Retirement Fund: Religious</b>	<b>\$ 475.00</b>
<b>Donation— Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Mass Intentions</b>	<b>\$ 160.00</b>
<b>Weekend Total:</b>	<b>\$ 21,354.99</b>

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." - Proverbs 3:9

**† FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS †**

**Larry Butcher (RIP)**

Thursday, December 7, 2017 ~ SJAE

Visitation: 9:30 am

Mass: 11:00 am

**Teresita Aquino (RIP)**

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 ~ Mililani Mauka Chapel

Wake Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 ~ SJAE

Visitation: 9:30 am

Mass: 10:00 am

Burial: 1 pm ~ Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

**Rosalina V. Bayona (RIP)**

Wednesday, December 27, 2017 ~ Mililani Mauka

Visitation: 6:00 pm

Wake Service: 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 28, 2017 ~ SJAE

Visitation: 9:00 am

Mass: 11:00 am

Burial: 1:00 pm ~ Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery



# PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

## Don't Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card

We're still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven't returned your Commitment Card, you can still mail it to the parish. Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of *St. John Apostle & Evangelist*. Please take this opportunity to express your support for our parish with your time, talent, and treasure!

**Wahiawa Christmas Wonderland**, This Advent St. John's is reaching out to help those in need. We will be joining other churches and community organizations at the **Wahiawa Christmas Wonderland**, held on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-9 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please call Deb Zedalis at 348-2973 or email: at [dzedalis@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:dzedalis@hawaii.rr.com).

Please Join Us...

*St. John's Catholic Preschool* will be holding our 1st Annual Silent Auction, on **Saturday, December 9, 2017, following the 5pm Mass**. Enjoy fellowship and refreshments with an opportunity to do some holiday shopping that raises money for our wonderful school. For more information, or if you are interested in donating a themed basket or other contribution, please contact Ms. Cat at 744-9538.



**Religious Education- FRCE Reconciliation Service** on **December 9, 9am**. If you have any questions, please contact the RE office at (808) 623-3332 ext. 204/206.

**Retirement for Religious Special Collection December 9th & 10th**. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes-- often for little to no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Envelopes are available at the back of the church or you may also give online through our parish website, click "**Online Giving**". Please be generous.

**Parish Health Ministry-** Blood Pressure Screening will be held next weekend, **December 9 & 10 on the church lanai**.

**The next Catholic Book Club:** meeting will be on **Thursday, January 18th, 7-9 pm** in classroom 6. The title of the discussion book is "**God or Nothing: A Conversation on Faith**" by Cardinal Robert Sarah. Bring a snack to share. For more information, contact Melissa Crisostomo at (808) 626-2469 or [alohamc@gmail.com](mailto:alohamc@gmail.com).



Health Tip from the Parish Ministry:

*Avoid the Holiday Gain*

Bring a vegetable side dish to holiday get togethers. Look at the buffet table & choose the foods you have to try. Take smaller portions of these foods. Avoid piling food on your plate. If you are going to have dessert, eat less of the starchy foods like rice, noodles, potatoes. Drink water instead of juice, soda or alcohol to cut calories.

**Planting Seeds for the Future:** At the death of a special friend or relative you might like to remember that person through a memorial gift to your church. This will show your appreciation for this treasured relationship and help others through the church. An acknowledgement card will be sent to the surviving family, letting them know of your gift, without disclosing the amount.

Please remember *St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church* in planning your will.

## THIS WEEK: December 4- December 10

### Monday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)  
9:30 am- Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)  
4 pm - Girl Scouts (Troop 611) (Rm 6)  
6 pm- Cub Scouts (Rms 4-5)  
7 pm - Boy Scouts (Rm 5)  
7 pm - Charismatic PG (CH)  
7 pm- Family Rosary Prayer Group (Chapel)  
7 pm- 4th Degree Knight (Rm 5)  
7:30 pm- Family Rosary Prayer Group Fellowship (RM 4)

### Tuesday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am - Rosary Prayer Group (CH)  
9 am - Women's Bible Study (Rm 6)  
9am- Hui (Rm 5)  
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)  
3 pm - Cenacle Prayer Group (CH)  
4:30 pm- Children's Choir Practice (CCH)  
7 pm - Combined Choir Practice (CH)  
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)

### Wednesday - Daily Mass (8AM)

8:45 am- Rosary Prayer Group (CH)  
9:30 am- Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)  
6 pm - OLPH Prayer Group (CH)  
7 pm- RCIA (Rms 4-5)  
7 pm- Music Rehearsal (CH)  
7:30 pm - NA Meeting (Rm 6)

### Thursday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:45 am- Rosary Prayer Group (CH)

### Friday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)*  
8:45am- Rosary Prayer Group (CH)  
9 am- Church Cleaning (Environment)  
4 pm- 2 Hearts (CH)  
6 pm- Girl Scouts (Troop 104) (Rm 5)  
7 pm- Mass

### Saturday - Daily Mass (8 AM)

8:30 am- Rosary Prayer Group (CH)  
9 am-First Reconciliation Service (CH)  
3:30 pm - Confession  
5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)  
5 pm- Blood Pressure Screening (CH Lanai)  
6 pm- Family Rosary Prayer Group- CH  
7 pm- Family Rosary Prayer Group Fellowship (Rm 4)

### Sunday - Masses

7 am, 9 am, 11 am, & 6 pm  
4 pm- 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

FOR YOUR SECURITY PLEASE...

... AND SECURE YOUR VEHICLE!

**PARK SMART!**

Take ALL your belongings with you.



Car thieves love to window

# PREPARE *the way*

Reflections on the First  
Sunday of Advent

## Watching and Waiting

Mark 13:33-37

The Greek word *kairos*, translated into English as “time,” refers to uncommon time, within which uncommon events occur. *Kairos* is God’s time. Because there was no way of knowing, in the un-chronicled time of God, when the Lord will return, Christians are admonished to “watch!”

In the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent, the command “watch” is repeated three times. Believers, who are watching

for God, are like the servants in the parable who remain behind when the owner of the house leaves to travel abroad. The servants are not to wait idly for the owner’s return, nor are Christians to wait idly until the Lord returns. They are to perform their regular duties and be watchful.

Interestingly, the four periods of time that are listed in the parable as possibilities for the Lord’s return — evening, midnight, cockcrow, and dawn — are the four night watches of the Roman military.

Like soldiers, Christians are

exhorted to stand the “watch” and not be caught asleep. The day of the Lord is not simply something that will happen at the end of time. Rather, we need to be watchful to see how every day of our faith lives is the day of the Lord.

We all wait. Whether it be in traffic, in the checkout line at the supermarket, or on the telephone, waiting is simply part of life. Advent is a season for believers to patiently watch and wait for the God of surprises. God is always simultaneously present and elusive, but watching and waiting for God is always worth it.

*“The season of Advent, which we begin again today, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint because it is founded on God’s Word.*

*A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints!*

*He is faithful!”*

— POPE FRANCIS, ANGIUS,  
DECEMBER 3, 2013

### POINTS TO PONDER

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something important to happen in your life?

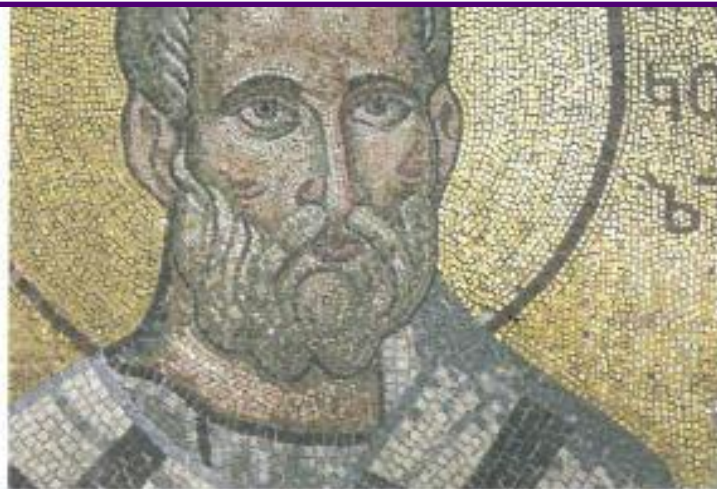
What role did the practice of your faith and prayer play while you were waiting?

What actions or activities this Advent will help you to be watchful for God in your life?

## SIGNS OF THE SEASON

# What Does the Advent Wreath Symbolize?

The use of the Advent wreath with four candles has been an Advent ritual for hundreds of years. The Advent wreath is a symbol of the four-week wait for Jesus' birth. The green branches remind us of the new life we have in Jesus, the circle represents the eternity of God's love for us (with no beginning and no end), and the candles represent the light and hope Jesus brings into a dark world. Set up an Advent wreath in the center of your dinner table and a candle for each week of the Advent season.



## Model of Faith: Saint Nicholas

Feast Day: December 6

Saint Nicholas (280-343), the patron of children, was orphaned at an early age and raised by an uncle. Like his uncle, he later became a bishop. After entering the priesthood, he became renowned for his charity and good deeds.

Tradition says that he secretly filled the stockings or shoes of a few young women with enough money to ensure a decent dowry and marriage. This is the origin of our custom of hanging stockings at Christmas. In other parts of the world, on the eve of his feast day children put their shoes outside the door for him to fill with small treats. He is sometimes referred to as "Nicholas the Wonderworker," because he is believed to be the cause of many miracles. *St. Nicholas, pray for us!*

### ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, help us to wait with patience and anticipation, to not be caught up in the rush of the season, but resting in your ever-present love.

**Amen.**

### Catechism CONNECTION

**W**hen the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming (cf. Rev 22:17). By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease (Jn 3:30)." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 524