

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30/DECEMBER 1, 2019



ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By: **Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa**

Today, we begin the season of Advent and with this we begin the new liturgical year. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word “adventum” which literally means “coming.” Advent is a season of hope and expectation, a time of joyful and eager waiting for the coming of Christ. We are invited to meditate on Jesus’ first coming in history as a baby in Bethlehem, his daily coming into our lives in mystery through the Sacraments, through the Bible and through the worshipping community and finally his Second Coming at the end of the world or the end of our lives.

The readings of today prepare us to be spiritually uplifted according to these three goals of the Season of Advent. In today’s Gospel, Jesus warns us of the urgency of vigilant preparation on our part that we may meet him. In the First reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks of the hope of the Messiah and of salvation, but he maintains that it cannot occur until the people look to God. What Isaiah is really addressing is the need for an inner journey on the part of each person. To begin this journey, Isaiah invites us to come and “climb the Lord’s mountain, that he may instruct us in his ways.” In the second reading, St. Paul exhorts us to get ready to meet Jesus in his Second Coming by discharging our duties properly and by freeing ourselves from our former sinful tendencies; by throwing off the works of darkness and putting on the armor of light. So the season of advent challenges us to make spiritual preparations for Christ’s birth in our lives by rising above the sinful world in which we live.

We need to be alert and watchful while spiritually preparing for Christmas by offering our daily work to God for His glory, by practicing more self-control in resisting our evil habits and inclinations, by seeking reconciliation daily with God and our fellow-humans, and by asking God’s pardon and forgiveness as we extend our unconditional forgiveness to those who have hurt us and by being generous to the poor and needy.

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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.***

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 St. John Apostle & Evangelist Mililani

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We look forward to connecting with you!

Pastor’s Corner

Parish Rectory Hours Monday: 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM Tues. - Fri.: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Saturday/Sunday: Closed
Outreach Office Hours Tuesday: 9 AM to 12 PM Friday: 9 AM to 11 AM FOOD PANTRY Hours Tues.- Fri.: 9 AM to 11 AM
Religious Ed Office Hours Monday/ Saturday: Closed Tues., Thurs & Fri. 12 PM - 6:30pm Wednesday: 2 pm - 8:30 pm Sunday: 7 am - 2 pm
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
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Parish Secretary (x 100)
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Outreach Department (x 203)
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RCIA Coordinators
Dcn. Modesto Cordero
Dcn. Romeo Ganibe
Religious Ed. Director (x 206)
Julie Quiroz-Zamora
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Acting Preschool Director
Amytes Quiason (744-9538)
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Origins and Characteristics of Advent

The word Advent comes from the Latin word adventus which means “the coming.” Advent is a season of expectation and preparation for the birth of the Lord. During the first two weeks of Advent up to December 16, we prepare for the second coming Christ, and during the last two weeks we reflect on the first coming when the Son of God became human and born of the Virgin Mary.

In the 5th Century AD, we find homilies exhorting the people in preparation for Christmas. Two examples of such homilies are that of Saint Maximus of Turin (380-423 AD) and St. Cesarius of Aries, France (470-542 AD) on Advent. The Advent season as we know today was developed in Rome. Pope Gregory the Great (590-604 AD) composed many of the prayers, antiphons, and psalm responses used during Advent.

One peculiar feature of Advent is its changing start date. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle which we just celebrated on November 30th. It can also begin as early as November 27th or as late as December 3rd. It is also important to know that Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Advent was chosen to mark the beginning of time in salvation history that Christ was not known to us leading the birth of Christ (Christmas).

Advent has two major themes. The first theme is Hope. Just as the Israelites hoped for a Messiah to come, and in the course of salvation history Christ entered the World, we too await in hope for the arrival of Christ when he comes again in Glory. The second theme of Advent is light as opposed to darkness. Christ enters our dark world and casts away the darkness of sin to redeem us. He will come again as the light of the world.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

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We can do this by putting on Christ, the “armor of light.” This involves allowing Christ to become a part of our lives, letting Him be at the center of all we do. He provides us with the “armor,” the strength to persevere. Just as swords were “hammered into plowshares,” God, in Christ, can transform us from selfishness to generosity, into being His disciples and stewards.

In this season of Advent, let us climb the mountain of the Lord that the Lord may instruct us through the readings of scripture, through the spiritual exercises that the season offers, through a life of prayer and reflection.

“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 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a ruler who would be a descendant of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. Therefore out of the line of David a descendant would rule with true justice and true faith, and he would establish true peace. This peace would be so great and genuine that even wild animals would be able to lie down next to one another, a beautiful image of harmony in God’s creation.

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17](#)

Psalm 72 is a coronation song that extols the qualities of the ideal ruler, whose reign is the sign of God’s reign. Obviously the psalm points to Christ. The Response: "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever," continues the theme of the first reading on the ruler who shall bring about reconciliation and peace.

Second Reading: [Romans 15:4-9](#)

This passage from Romans is a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy in the first reading. Paul here focuses on God’s purpose in Christ’s mission to bring about reconciliation, unity and harmony. Therefore God is to be glorified only by one heart and one voice rising from humankind. The unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ is a symbol that compels us to promote the same unity in Christ among all people, overcoming barriers of culture, distance and prejudice.

Gospel: [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

This passage from Matthew is the heart of John the Baptist’s ministry, namely, “preparing the way of the Lord.” John uses the image of road building, a scene we can identify with today. We know the need for good roads in order to give access to all places remote as well as near. The building and repair of roads require planning. All these are images of the need for reform and repentance as preparation to allow the Lord to enter into our lives. Such was the message of John the Baptist.

Follow Msgr. John’s Homilies! Blog
(text): www.sundayhomily.com
Podcast (audio):
<https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

Mass Intentions for the Week
Monday, December 2, 2019
(8 am) Hildegard Borowitz
(Healing)
Raymond Guerrero (Thanksgiving)
Mel Kawahara (Thanksgiving)
Tuesday, December 3, 2019
(8 am) †Jose Guadalupe
†Paulina Wong
Lucila G. Duque (Healing)
Wednesday, December 4, 2019
†Virginia B. Cabilao
†Recalte Dick Navarro
†Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, December 5, 2019
(8 am) †Gloria Tolentino
Victor C. & Marie Pavez
(Wedding Anniversary)
Friday, December 6, 2019
(8 am) †Feliciano Dona
†Federico G. Badua
Saturday, December 7, 2019
(8 am) †Dorothy Griswold
John Sauget (Birthday Blessing)
Concepcion Amigo
(Birthday Blessing)
5 pm †Shirley Leong
Sunday, December 8, 2019
7am †Brendan Cravalho
9 am **For the People**
11 am †Ken Walker
(Birthday Blessing)
& Dennis Nakamura
6 pm †Lucy Frangko

† RIP

HEALING / BLESSINGS: baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Rosalie Tadda, Bienvenido Roter, Randy Arrojo-Manuwa & Family, Rachel Sullivan, Duane Gonzales, Keahi Paaluhi, Lillian Chalmers, John Durham, Maggie & Benjamin Bae Sr., Suzanna Foster, Shirley Pichon, Mary Anne Q. Llacuna, Caridad Ramiscal, RileyAnn Wills, Rebecca Wills, Laralyn Corthran, Dan Wills, Elaine Kahala, Sandra Gose, Ellen Cleghorn, Hildegard Borowitz & all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Federico G. Badua, Virgilio V. Benitez, Mary Ama, Shiloh John Aiu, Thelma Ruiz, Nestor “Jun” Tantamco, Lawrence Wilson, Anne Nishihara, Evelyn Bolosan, Ted Encarnado, Ted C. Abear, Kenneth Silva, Robert “Bob” Duncan Sr., Patricia J. Merideth, Shirley Leong, Leslie Fountain, Irene Moyles, Brian Ching, Marcelino Esdicul, Sr & Gloria Tolentino.

Please contact the parish office to set up an appointment & coordination for the following:
Anointing of the Sick
Baptisms (Dec 8 & 15, Jan 19 & 26, Feb 16 & 23)
Baptism Preparation Classes: Dec 1, Jan 5 & Feb 2
Blessings (home, auto, religious items, etc...)
Funerals
Homebound Communion
Marriages (at least 6 months before wedding date)

Online Giving – Stewardship is made easier than ever with our online giving system, WeShare. Make a one-time or recurring donation using your debit card, credit card, checking, or savings account in 3 easy steps. 1) Visit our church website, www.stjohnmililani.org, and click on **Online Giving**. 2) Set up your account. 3) Choose a payment option and customize your donation.

Let us serve one another in love!
The One Community Center (OCC) will help in many practical ways to welcome and to serve those who come to our church to encounter Christ. Please remember to contribute toward the completion of your pledge. Mahalo.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development– CCHD Collection: *Thank you for your generous support last weekend.* If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click on "How to Give."

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE	NOV. 23 - NOV. 24
Sunday Collection	\$ 13,486.83
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 1,955.10
Building, Equipment, & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 1,167.25
OCC Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 3,506.75
Donation- Baptisms	\$ 140.00
Donation- Children's Collection	\$ 6.00
Donation- Stewardship	\$ 95.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 64.00
Donation- Angel Tree	\$ 100.00
Donation- Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 835.00
Donation- Catholic Relief	\$ 10.00
Donation- Outreach	\$ 10.00
Donation- Holiday	\$ 20.00
Candle Sales	\$ 485.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 510.00
Weekend Total:	\$ 22,390.93
"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." - Proverbs 3:9	

†FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS†
Shirley Leong (RIP)
Saturday, December 7, 2019 - Visitation: 12:00pm
Mass: 1:00pm ~ St. John A&E, Mililani
Brendan K. Cravalho (RIP)
Saturday, December 7, 2019 - Visitation: 5:30pm
Prayer Service: 6:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park- Mauka Chapel

BEAT-LELE **Benefit Concert** will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the One Community Center. This event is sponsored by **Friends of St. John's Catholic Preschool.**

 Respect Life Poster contest deadline has been extended until Sunday, Dec. 1st at noon. Open to youth ages 4 to 18. First prize is a DAY TRIP to Kalaupapa, Moloka'i with Bishop Larry Silva and a \$200.00 gift certificate from Pauline Bookstore. For more information and to enter, please go to the Religious Education office after Mass.

Advent & Christmas Schedule
Misa de Gallo – December 16-24 (5:00 am)
Dec. 16– Fr. Romple Emwalu
Dec. 17 & Dec. 18 – TBA
Dec. 19– Fr. Edmund Barut
Dec. 20- Fr. Ernie Juarez
Dec. 21- TBA
Dec. 22- Fr. Greg Honorio
Dec. 23- Bishop Larry Silva
Dec. 24 Msgr. John Mbinda

St. John's Penance Service- Wednesday, Dec 11th - 7 pm.
To fulfill your Christmas obligations, please plan on attending one of the Masses.
Christmas Eve Masses - December 24- 6pm & 12 Midnight
Christmas Day Masses- December 25- 7am, 9am, & 11am.
No 6:00 PM Mass.

Central Vicariate Penance Services 2019
•Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 PM - Resurrection of the Lord, Waipio
•Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7:00 PM - St. Elizabeth, Aiea
•Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 PM -- St. John A&E, Mililani
•Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:00 PM - Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City
•Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 PM - Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa
•Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 PM - St. Michael, Waiialua



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

Christmas Flowers Offering Envelopes. Remember a loved one by making a flower offering this Christmas. Envelopes are available in the back of the church , or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website, clicking “online giving.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Novena- December 4 - 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm in classroom #2. Mañanitas (serenate) Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 pm followed by Mass at 7:00 pm in the church. **Join us for a potluck dinner & gathering on the church lanai after the Mass!!** For more information, please contact Milagros Quiñones at (321) 914-2357.

The next Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, December 6th, immediately after the 8 am Mass to 7:30 am on Saturday, December 7th.

Show your “**St. John Spirit-led**” Christmas spirit and join us in the **34th Annual Mililani Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 7th, 9am to 10:30am.** Parade **STARTS** at Mililani High School Stadium and **ENDS** at Town Center of Mililani. **Wear a red shirt. Let us walk the parade route as one family in Christ!**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: While this very important celebration is usually on December 8, since that is a Sunday this year, all the Masses for December 7/8 will be for the Second Sunday of Advent. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception WILL be celebrated on Monday, December 9, 2019 as a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** in the Diocese of Honolulu. Masses are at 8am and 7pm.

Retirement for Religious Special Collection December 7th & 8th. 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.

Little Bethlehem Christians is a group that represents Christian Families who live in the Holy Land of Bethlehem that make their living as wood carvers. The Alsahouri Family, representing this group, will display a collection of hand-carved olive wood religious items for sale on **December 7th & 8th** after all masses. All profits will support Christianity in the land of Christ.

Our parish Advent Penance Service will be held on Wednesday, December 11, at 7PM in the Church. There will be 6 priests available to hear confession.

The traditional Filipino novena leading up to Christmas, **Misa de Gallo**, will begin on Monday, December 16th thru Monday, December 24th, at 5 AM. Everyone is encouraged to take part in this prayerful celebration.

Dedication of the One Community Center: Please join us on Saturday, Dec 21 at the 5 pm Mass presided by Bishop Larry Silva. Dedication of the OCC will be held after the Mass, followed by reception and entertainment.

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE: “Later” can be too late. Don’t delay having your will drawn. Make sure your estate plans are in place so that your wishes will be carried out to benefit your family. Gifts you plan for your church through your will can help your church continue to minister and serve.

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

THIS WEEK: DEC 2 – DEC 8

Monday– 7:30 am—Rosary
8 am- *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
7 pm– Family Prayer Group (Rm 6)
7 pm– Troop 144 (Rm 5)
7 pm– Charismatic (CH)
7 pm- 4th Degree Knights (Rm 3)
Tuesday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am– Women’s Bible Study (Rm 2)
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
3 pm– Cenacle Prayer (CH)
7 pm- 5 pm Choir Practice (CH)
7 pm- Mililani Holiday Parade Info (Rm 2)
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)
Wednesday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am- HUI (Rm 3)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
6 pm- OLPH Prayer Group (Rm 2)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Chapel)
7 pm– 9 am Choir Practice (CH)
7 pm- RCIA- Session #15: Incarnation/Mary, Model of the Church (Rm 3)
7:30 pm—NA Meeting (Rm 6)
Thursday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
6 pm- 11 am Choir Practice (CH)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rm 2)
Friday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:30 am- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** (CH)
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
4 pm - Two Hearts (Rm 3)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rm 2)
Saturday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group
9 am- 34th Annual Mililani Holiday Parade
9 am- Church Cleaning (Group 4)
3:30 pm - Confession
5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)
5 pm- Little Bethlehem Christians (CH Lanai)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rm 5)
Sunday– Masses
7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Little Bethlehem Christians (CH Lanai)
Religious Education “A” Schedule
10 am- RCIA Dismissal (conf rm)
4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rm 2)

KEEPING WATCH

Meditations for Advent | Week 1

Awaiting Emmanuel

He Is Coming!

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

Today begins a time of extraordinary joy and thoughtful preparation ... and not just the kind that involves frosting cookies or choosing gifts (though there's room for that, too).

It's the First Sunday of Advent, the start of the Church's liturgical year and a season of waiting for Christ to arrive, ever so humbly, as a miraculous baby boy. Consider the immense love that God bears for us, to send his son in this most vulnerable expression of humanity.

We celebrate this momentous love with Christmas every year on December 25, and each year we mark four Sundays on a calendar for Advent. But today's Gospel makes it clear that we can't make firm plans for Christ's coming — the Second Coming, when Jesus returns at the end of the world. "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come" (Mt 24:42). We must always be ready.

This is difficult for a society of people who like to be in control. We live by schedules! We like to put dates into our phones, write events on wall calendars, and break down projects into steps with all kinds of management tools to ensure we are meeting deadlines. Being ready

at any moment is tricky. Imagine telling friends to drop by any time ... and then discovering that they are on your doorstep while you are knee deep in dirty laundry.

Of course, we're frequently reminded that the world works according to God's plan, not ours. "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come" (Mt 24:44), we are told. Being ready to meet Jesus isn't a goal; it has to become a lifestyle.

We are provided with opportunities at every turn to develop this way of being, by the very nature of how we engage with those around us. Pope Francis encourages us to "work and ask for the grace to build a culture of encounter, of this fruitful encounter, this encounter that returns to each person their dignity as children of God, the dignity of living" (For a Culture of Encounter, September 13, 2016, morning meditation).

When you see Christ alive in the people around you, and every day you return that immense love that he shows us, then you have no need to fear the uncertainty of his coming. Advent is the opportunity to align your life with his teachings.

It's time not to plan, but to become.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ▶ What would you need to do to be ready for Jesus' Second Coming if it were tomorrow?
- ▶ What changes or efforts have you been putting off until "someday"?
- ▶ How do you address others as children of God?





The Advent Wreath

Join in a centuries-old tradition by marking the weeks until Christmas with an Advent wreath. Each element holds significance: The evergreen wreath symbolizes everlasting life, and the four candles represent the light that Christ brings into the world. In particular, the rose candle we light on the Third Sunday of Advent highlights our growing joy at the approach of Christmas.

You can purchase a premade Advent wreath or a candleholder made to hold four candles in a ring. You might fashion your own, using real or artificial greenery.

Decide what kind of ceremony with which you'd like to observe the lighting of each week's candles. It can be as fancy or informal as you'd like! It can include singing, music, and/or prayers. You

could turn off the lights to set the scene. Perhaps you would like to incorporate the adding of characters to your Nativity scene — place the animals one week, the shepherds the next. You could take turns with family members lighting the candles or planning a meditation. Consider how you might create your own tradition to hand down for generations.

To begin this week, light one of the purple candles today. You can light it again each night at dinner, if you choose. Next week, light the first candle and another purple candle. On the Third Sunday of Advent, light the previous two purple candles, as well as the rose candle. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, light all four candles. If you'd like, add a white candle in the center to light on Christmas Eve.



Images: Shutterstock.com

The Feast Day of ST. NICHOLAS

St. Nicholas is not just another name for Santa Claus; he was a real Greek bishop in the fourth century. He was the son of wealthy parents who died when he was young, and he donated his inheritance to help the less fortunate.

Legend has it that he specifically aided three young women who couldn't be married because they didn't have dowries. When each was of the age when she had to leave home, he would toss a bag of coins through the window that allegedly landed in the girl's shoes drying by the fire.

The feast day of St. Nicholas is December 6. Your family can celebrate by taking a bit of time to learn about the saint, then putting out shoes the evening of December 5 for St. Nicholas (or Mom and Dad!) to fill with candy during the night.

Keeping Watch *Together*

What are some ways you might be ready for Jesus' coming, and for those whom you encounter every day? Try these ideas, or think of your own.



- Freeze a pot of soup and a batch of cookies so you are always ready to extend hospitality to guests at dinner.
- Investigate ways to be of service to those who have recently joined your community. Catholic Charities operates programs to assist migrants, those who've recently left prison, and infants.
- Just as you might with a healthier eating regimen or exercise plan, determine some ways to make awareness, service, and hospitality part of your everyday lifestyle. Maybe even schedule it!

An Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, please give me eyes to see you in every encounter, and strength to align my life with your teachings, so that I'm ready for the coming of Jesus whatever the hour and day. Thank you for the immense love that you've shown, especially in sending your only Son. Amen.



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