St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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# ENCOUNTERING JESUS WHO COMES

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Today, first Sunday of Advent, in the brief Gospel the liturgy offers us (cf. Mk 13:33-37), Jesus addresses a simple and direct exhortation to us, three times: "Watch" (v. 33, 35, 37). Thus, the theme is vigilance. How should we understand it? Sometimes we think of this virtue as an attitude motivated by fear of impending doom, as if a meteorite were about to plunge from the sky and threaten to overwhelm us, if we were not to get out of the way in time. But this is certainly not what Christian vigilance is all about!

Jesus illustrates it with a parable, speaking about a master who will return, and about his servants who await him (cf. v. 34). The servant in the Bible is the "trusted person" of the master, with whom there is often a relationship of collaboration and affection. Let us think, for example, that Moses is defined as the servant of God (cf. Nm 12:7), and that even Mary says of herself, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38). The vigilance of servants is thus not one of fear but of longing, of waiting to go forth to meet their Lord who is coming. They remain in readiness for his return because they care for him, because they have in mind that when he returns, they will make him find a welcoming and orderly home; they are happy to see him, to the point that they look forward to his return as a feast for the whole great family of which they are a part.

It is with this expectation filled with affection that we also want to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus: at Christmas, which we will celebrate in a few weeks; at the end of time, when he will return in glory; every day, as he comes to meet us in the Eucharist, in his Word, in our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.

So, in a special way during these weeks, let us prepare the house of the heart with care, so that it is orderly and hospitable. In fact, keeping watch means keeping the heart ready. It is the attitude of the sentinel, who in the night is not tempted by weariness, does not fall asleep, but remains awake awaiting the coming light. The Lord is our light and it is good to dispose the heart to welcome him with prayer and to host him with charity, the two preparations that, so to speak, make him comfortable. In this regard, the story goes that Saint Martin of Tours, a man of prayer, after giving half of his cloak to a poor man, dreamed of Jesus clad in that very part of the cloak he had given. Here is a good programme for Advent: to encounter Jesus who comes in every brother and sister who needs us and to share with them what we can: listening, time, concrete assistance.

Dear friends, it will be good for us today to ask ourselves how we can prepare a welcoming heart for the Lord. We can do so by approaching his forgiveness, his Word, his Table, finding space for prayer, welcoming him in those in need. Let us cultivate his expectation without letting ourselves be distracted by so many pointless things, and without complaining all the time, but keeping our hearts alert, that is, eager for him, awake and ready, impatient to meet him. May the Virgin Mary, woman of expectation, help us to receive her coming Son.

POPE FRANCIS — December 3, 2023

# There is no Mass, Wednesday, December 2nd.

**First Friday of the Month**, December 4th, Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10am, concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.

**Day of Spirituality:** St. John's Catholic Women's League invites you to our Day of Spirituality which will be held on Saturday, December 5th, in the parish hall. Gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and refreshments and guest speaker, Raminta Piggott, will begin at 10:00 a.m with her talk on "Blessed Mother Mary speaks to us - her Children". The morning ends with the Midday prayers upstairs in the church. All are welcome to attend, both men and women, from St John's and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes. For further information please contact Leah at leahfriedrich04@gmail.com

**Upcoming Meeting Reminder:** The Catholic Women's League will be having our final meeting of the year on December 8th starting with the Rosary at 5:30pm in the Parish hall. We will be having our Potluck dinner, so please bring something to contribute if you are able. We will also be collecting items to donate to Marillac Place as well as enjoying some fellowship and games. Hope to see you there and if you have any questions please reach out to Leah at leahfriedrich04@gmail.com

## ENGLISH SCHEDULE

### *First Sunday of Advent*

Saturday, November 28 — **5:00 PM**
*+Dolores Colford*

Sunday, November 29 — **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, December 1 — **11:00 AM**
*+Wally Polischuk*
*For the Intentions of Anthony & Magnell*

*Wednesday*, December 2 — **NO MASS**

Thursday, December 3 — **11:00 AM**
*Saint Francis Xavier*
*+Dot Kelly*

Friday, December 4 — **11:00 AM**
*+Dot Kelly*

### *Second Sunday of Advent*

Saturday, December 5 — **5:00 PM**

Sunday, December 6 — **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

## HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

### *I Domingo de Adviento*

Sábado 28 de noviembre — **7:00 PM**
*+Carlos Garrido +Gloria Cecilia Romero +Alberto Meza*

Domingo 29 de noviembre — **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 1 de diciembre — **12:00 PM**

*Miércoles 2 de diciembre* — **NO HAY MISA**

Jueves 3 de diciembre — **12:00 PM**
*San Francisco Javier*

Viernes 4 de diciembre — **12:00 PM**
*+Nestor Sánchez*

### *II Domingo de Adviento*

Sábado 5 de diciembre — **7:00 PM**
*+Marvin Castillo Courtade +Pedro Antonio Molina*

Domingo 6 de diciembre — **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

## First Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2026

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, **contact Fr. John Ha, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 ext 2341. email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/**