



First Sunday Advent
November 26-27, 2011
Mark 13: 33-37

This church community was establishing itself in Rome during the uncertainty of the reign of Nero. Peter and Paul had been killed and the community faced the threat of persecution and the pervasive fear that carries.

With this as the backdrop we can begin to understand our reading for today. "Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake!" We have been empowered by Jesus to be partners in the project of renewing all creation. This cannot be achieved unless we are fully alert.

Mark uses a picture of a person left in charge of a large household while the owner is away. Look at the images of the danger times, dusk, midnight and cockcrow and think of the last evening in the garden. Judas appeared leading an armed crowd. The disciples slept through Jesus' agony. Peter, so sure about everything, denied he knew Jesus.

Night time is a common metaphor for lack of vision. According to Isaiah that lack of vision can be called sin. The writer got a little carried away and called the people polluted rags, and dead leaves. Of what sins are the people accused?

Wandering away from God, acting like people who do not know God, allowing their hearts to become hard, not praying, being too lazy even to acknowledge God as trustworthy. This is a different list I would imagine from the ones we make for the sacrament of reconciliation. The focus of the list is the accusation of not having the attitude appropriate for a servant/partner of the God who saves. Sin in the scriptures is often spoken of in terms of right attitudes rather than infringements of the commandments.

Paul spoke of the commandments as a basic moral code for all. He also said that keeping the commandments was a sort of level one for beginners. A disciple is to be more concerned about a life directed by the Spirit who leads us forward to a new relationship with God, others and the world.

Being awake is not a virtue in itself but a condition of readiness. It is an acceptance of the mandate to heal and to save. This is the time for setting our goals for the year that has begun. Let us make the prayer of Paul to the Corinthians our prayer for one another.

"I thank God for you all the time, because through your union with Jesus you are rich in wisdom.

You do not lack any spiritual gift. You will be strong to the end. God is ever faithful.

It was God who called you to fellowship with Jesus."

Parish Gift Shop! You may shop in the church basement and at the Lake Center. ***Get that special Christmas gift at a bargain price.***

†As part of the KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS effort, our K of C will sell Christmas cards. You may call Ron Sunny at 301-387-6769 if you would like more info. For the next few weekends, K of C Members will sell the cards after our Masses.

Senior Moments to FSU!!! Four tickets are still available for the CELTIC CHRISTMAS performance at FSU on 12/8/11 at 7:30pm. The group plans to meet at Perkins Restaurant at 5pm for dinner and to carpool to Frostburg State. Call Donna at the church office if you are interested in attending!

Our next meeting is set for Friday, December 2nd at 12:30pm in the lower level of the Oakland Parish Hall. See you there!

†The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for November: For the Eastern Churches, that their venerable tradition may be known and appreciated as a spiritual treasure for our entire Church

†Homebound prayer intention for November: That we all may find in Christ the strength to fulfill the path of reconciliation and justice to all.

The NEW ST. JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSALS are available at both gift shop locations and at the church office for \$3. This missal has the Sunday readings for the liturgical year 2012 which begins on the first Sunday of Advent. Purchase yours today!

➡ COMING SOON!!! Our Annual Christmas Party after the 9 am Mass on Sunday, December 18, 2011. Our parish family is invited to a "***Christmas Brunch.***" The catered, buffet brunch will be from 10 am to 11:15am in the hall ☺
 Kids' Christmas Play after the brunch.
Our Special Guest....Jolly Ole St. Nick!!!

CALCULATORS SCHEDULE:

November 27-Church: Team #2-Coviellos, Bakers Center: Team #7-Gloeckl, Stahl, Mitchell
December 4-Church: Team #3-Nutter, Rickmans Center: Team #8-Schriders, Shaw

†Lay Minister Schedule: December 3-4, 2011

4:00pm –Sat., Dec. 3 Read: Sheahen
 Euch. Ministers: Bothe, Gillespie, Myers
9:00am—Sun., Dec. 4 Read: O'Neal
 Euch. Ministers: Hines, Monroe, Reams, *Mott
 Altar Server Team: Team #3

➡Please support our hymnal fundraiser! Thank you to all who have responded! This fundraiser is ongoing, so you may send your donations in the mail or place them in the collection basket.

✠ **Mass Intentions-Nov. 26-Dec. 4, 2011** ✠

Sat.	Parish Family	4:00pm
Sun.	Virginia Mondragon (✠)	9:00am
Mon.	Marie Morlino (✠)	8:15am
Tues.	All Souls Intentions (✠)	6:30pm
Wed.	Jack Poyer (✠)	12:00pm
Thurs.	Communion Service	8:15am
Fri.	Margaret Helbig (✠)	8:15am
Sat.	Ray Huckestein (✠)	4:00pm
Sun.	Parish Family	9:00am

(Daily Mass Intentions are subject to change due to emergencies, weather or the availability of a priest.)

Sunday School Calendar:

*November 27--Thanksgiving Break/No Sunday School

**This will be movie Sunday. A movie will be shown downstairs in a classroom at 10 am. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.*

December 4---10th Class

December 11-11th Class



PRAYER LIST FOR November ...we pray for: Lora Chesney, Bill Murphy, Mike & Virginia Evans, Aiden White, Rob McBee, Betty Yeater, Sandy Stutzman, Ingrid Abrahamson, Erin McCagh Morissey, Annemarie Poyer, Consi White, The Bowling Family, The Marshall Family, June Hesselbach, Richard & Jane Damewood, Peggy Walker, The Porter Family, Jack Ward, Kathy Hemmer, Tom Stuckey, Patrick Ashby, Bill Mott, George Miller and all military personnel. God bless them all. (Names are taken off on the first weekend of each month. You may call the office at any time during the month.)



Advent Wreath Prayer for the 1st Week of Advent.....

O Lord, stir your might, we pray and come settle in our hearts. Let this candle give us light and keep us watchful. At those times when you ask us to act, give us strength to respond to your will. Through Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The History of the Advent Wreath:

While the Advent wreath is a feature in many Catholic homes and even Catholic churches during the season of Advent, it actually originated among the Lutherans of Eastern Germany in the 16th century. It was quickly adopted by both Protestants and Catholics throughout Germany, and it was brought to the United States by German immigrants in the 19th century.

The Advent wreath has deeper origins as well, extending back to pre-Christian customs of burning lights during the darkest months of winter. Medieval Christians retained the custom while seeing such lights as a symbol of Christ.



Christmas Season Mass Schedule

2011

All Christmas Masses at the Church

Advent Penance Service, Monday, December 19 at 7:00 pm at the Church

Saturday, December 24 –

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm--Youth Ministered Mass (Church)

6:00 pm Mass--Carols before Mass (Church)

9:25 pm--Carols & Readings (Church)

10:00 pm--Christmas Eve Mass (Church)

Sunday, December 25 –

Christmas Day--9:00 am Mass (Church)

OFFICES CLOSED

December 23 through January 2, 2012

No Sunday School

December 25, 2011 or January 1, 2012

Dec. 31, Eve, Mary Mother of God-

Friday, 4:00 pm (Church)

Jan. 1, Mary, Mother of God-

Saturday, 9:00am Mass (Church)

Jan. 8, Feast of Epiphany-

Saturday, 4pm Mass (Center)

Sunday -- 9:00 am Mass (Church)

Monday, Jan. 9, Baptism of the Lord-

Mass at 8:15am in the Daily Mass Chapel

End of the Christmas Season

COMMUNION CLOTH MINISTRY:

12/4/11...Linda Goodman 12/11/11...Patti Battista

Support for Military Families! Please drop off your donations for the military support group of our local community to the church or office by

Monday, November 28, 2011. On

November 30, 2011, our Sunday School, grades 7-9, will participate in the packing

of boxes to go to our troops serving around the world. This effort supports

family members from our local community. Let's all participate to show our caring, concern and,

especially, our thanks

for these service men and women.

God bless them and their families!



Items you can donate include: drink packets, gum, instant oatmeal, mints, crackers, non-perishable food items.

BUT...No canned goods or toiletries, please!