

ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO
CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Module 13 Family Catechesis
First Sunday of Advent Year B Nov 29, 2020
Mark 13:33-37
#Be watchful! Be alert!

1. INTRODUCTION

Talk about planning a birthday party for someone special. What would you include in your plan? What are the preparations needed to make it a meaningful one for the celebrant? Or perhaps you have done it yourselves.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Advent is more than making preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ's at Christmas.

Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time.

As we enter the first week Advent, let us ask God to give us hope. We pray that we may become more trusting to the love and mercy of God in the midst of unpleasant events happening like the recent typhoons and our battle against Corona virus pandemic. Let us ask the Lord to give us new heart to welcome him.

Let us pause for a while.



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent, we ask you to be our hope in the midst of much fears, to be our healing in the midst of pandemic and to be our refuge in the midst of calamities happening these days. Lord, calm our anxious spirits and confused lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son, our Saviour. Grant us your peace and joy in our spirits.

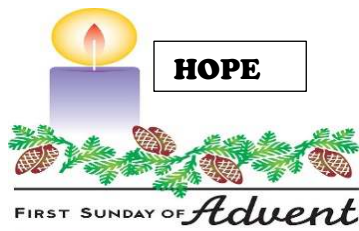
(Light the first candle of the Advent wreath placed beside the Bible at the altar)



PHASE ONE REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story

A moment of prayerful silence
We will not be able to understand Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word



A reading from the
Gospel
of Mark 13:33-37

• 33 Be alert and watch, for you don't know when the time will come. 34 When a man goes abroad and leaves his home, he puts his servants in charge, giving to each one some responsibility; and he orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35 So stay awake, for you don't know when the Lord of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight, when the cock crows or before dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him catch you asleep. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: stay awake!"

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

- What word struck you from the Gospel reading?
- How do you feel about it?
- Jesus tells us to "stay awake".
What does it mean to you?

(leave some moments for reflections)

1.3 Text in Context

Mark's Gospel was written sometime in late 60's or early 70's A.D. when the Temple of Jerusalem was destroyed. His audience were mostly new converts to Christianity whose followers were being persecuted. The first followers usually gathered together someone's home, like an extended family who shared their new-found faith together. They hid away from their real families and communities who did not accept their following of Jesus. In the so called house-church, they organized themselves with respective works at the service of the members, including the doorkeeper who had special role to run house in order and get it secured against outside danger.

They longed to the return of Jesus to save them from the hatred of persecution. The word of Jesus encouraged them to bear hardships and to stand firm in faith. Jesus will come to their rescue as he had promised.

1. What words from the Gospel story are repeated with almost the same meaning? *Be alert, watch, stay awake* (words used may vary according to the Bible used)
2. What does Jesus mean with these words: *Be alert, watch, stay awake?*

They must be attentive and ready upon his return. While Jesus wants them to pay attention to the signs that the end times are coming (Mark 13:28-29), they should not focus too much on time and effort of determining the hour of Jesus' return. Jesus said we cannot know when he will return (Mt 13:32)

Like the first followers of Christ in Mark's community, we must also be alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, on both good and bad times prepare us for the coming of the Son of Man.

To stay awake is to be watchful to what is happening around, not only as an observant, but involved to the realities of life with the values of Christ.

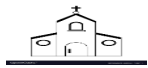
A watchful person is not easily swayed to the "trends or current of the world" like consumerism mentality or imitating what others are doing, unacceptable to the eyes of God.

Carlo Acusti said “ we are all born original, but many die as photocopies”. He encouraged young people to discover their gifts and use them fruitfully and appreciate who they are.

A watchful person is sensitive to the wishes of God and hopeful that things will get better in spite of problems and difficulties that situations present. Thus avoiding occasions that displease God.

A watchful person rejoices at the truth and defends the truth. We live in a world that promotes lies and deceptions as a way of life. We see it in the social media where fake news abound, putting down the dignity of the persons for self-gain and interest.

Let us look into our heart. What part of myself does God invite me to be watchful? How would I welcome the return of the Lord? Will he find me fully awake and ready?



PHASE II REFLECT the Story of the Church (Teachings of the Church)

The Second Coming of the Lord & the Last Judgment

Advent is the season of remembering the birth of Jesus as Son of Mary and Joseph. Jesus first appeared or came to humankind in his incarnation. By his death, resurrection and ascension he passed his life on earth to a new and glorious life in heaven. Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit through the Church where he is actively present in the celebration of the sacraments and his Word.

When Christ returns on the Second Coming all things will be under his power both on earth and in heaven.(Phil 2:10-11). His glorious coming back will happen in the last days and will mark the end of human history. The Lord will certainly come as he promised accompanied with signs. But he warned us, *Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come* (Mark 13:33). He wants us to **not to put much time and effort in determining the time of his coming back but to be prepared to live the present moment as if it were the day of the Lord’s return.**

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story

We are aware of disasters happening in our world these days. Our battle against Covid 19 is on-going with 61,308,613 cases and 1,437,840 deaths worldwide

Many parts of the world are suffering from natural and human disasters. Those badly affected are the poor people. In the Philippines, the recent typhoons – Rolly and Ulysses, destroyed life and properties especially in Bicol region, Cagayan and even Marikina.

With this global situation, can we draw out some lessons common to both coronavirus pandemic and climate crisis? Now that we remain under stay-at-home orders, we have more time to develop the attitude of watchfulness from within to the outside world.

(Note: At this point, help the group realize that problems facing us seem so big that we have to break them down into more doable pieces. This will help us see their interconnectedness so that we may act upon them. For example, skies everywhere has been cleared due to a halt of operation in factories and use of transportation that emit smoke, destroying the green house in the atmosphere. The destruction of forest deprives the animals from their natural habitat. For instance, it is most likely that the bats which carried coronavirus found their dwelling among humans.

Encourage the group to reflect on this facts to propose activities that promote care for OUR COMMON HOME during Advent starting from home to the neighbourhood.



CLOSING PRAYER

To God our Father, who has given us the grace to wait in graceful hope for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us make our prayer: Response. Come, Lord Jesus.

- Purify our mind and body keep us without sin until the coming of your Son.
- Make us walk this day in holiness, and live upright and devout lives in this world.
- May we be clothed in our Lord Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Lord, help us to stand watchful and ready, until your Son is revealed in all his glory.

OUR FATHER with Cosing Song proper to Advent

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

157 YOUCAT Will we be brought to judgement after death? The so-called particular or personal judgment occurs at the moment of death of the individual. The general judgment, which we called the last Judgment occurs on the Last Day, at the end of the world, when the Lord comes again.

In dying every man arrives at the moment of truth. Now it is no longer possible to repress or conceal anything; nothing more can be changed. God sees us as we are. We come before his tribunal, where all is made right, for if we are to be in God’s holy presence at all, we must be “right” with him – as right as God wanted us to be when he created us. Perhaps we will still have undergo a process of purification, or maybe we will still be able to fall into God’s arms immediately. But perhaps we will be so full of wickedness, hatred, and denial of everything that we turn our face away from love forever, away from God. a life without love, however, is nothing but hell.

CCC 2021 Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ. The New Testament speaks of judgment primarily in its aspect of the final encounter with Christ in his second coming, but also repeatedly affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with his works and faith.

