

LIVING FAITH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY: MARK 13:33-37

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey,
when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

This Gospel that we hear proclaimed today is often understood as preparing us for the end of time, and to be alert and watchful for the coming of the Lord at that end time. This is true.

AND... we can also see in this Gospel passage an encouragement to look for Jesus wherever He is to be found in our midst. He is here already. Where is He? Last Sunday's Gospel gives us a big clue. Let's look back and remember... last week, we heard Jesus say this:

"I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."



We meet Jesus every day, Jesus is in our midst every day. We only have eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to love. Jesus is here in every hungry person we encounter, whether they are hungry for food, love, or companionship. Jesus is among us in those who thirst, whether that is an African village needing a well, an indigenous Canadian community in need of clean drinking water, or people who thirst for justice. Jesus walks among us as the stranger, the refugee, the migrant, the homeless or ill-housed person we meet on the street. You get the point. We don't need to wait for some future point to encounter Jesus. He is here, among us, now, in those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick or in prison.



TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- How do you show love—practical, meaningful love- to people in need?
- Where do you encounter Jesus in your daily life?
- Do you see Him?
- What do you do differently because you see him?

Ready for His Return

"Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come."
Mark 13:33 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



What time is it?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	F	N	M	P	I	Y	U	H	D	A	Z	R	J	B	K	V	X	E	Q	L	O	G	T	C	W

1. 10-11-26-3 _____
2. 10-11-7 _____
3. 16-3-22-26 _____
4. 19-17-19-3-6-3-23 _____
5. 1-21-19-19-5-6-3-23 _____
6. 26-11-24-25-9 _____
7. 11-21-19-13-24 _____
8. 4-6-10-3-6-23-9-24 _____
9. 9-22-8-13 _____
10. 23-8-11-13-10 _____

HOUR	WATCH	KNOW	DAY	DAWN
MIDNIGHT	EVENING	SLEEPING	GUARD	ALERT

Used with Permission

Copyright © Sermons 4 Kids, Inc. • All rights reserved • www.sermons4kids.com

Watch a short video from Busted Halo about Advent [here](#)

Once again, the CCCB has produced an Advent Video reflection series called Journey through Advent. This year's presenter is Most Rev. Bishop Jon Hansen, CSsR, Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. The reflection for the First Sunday of Advent can be viewed [here](#).

Subscribe to our weekly Catechetical resource. E-mail: Familycatechesis@rcsj.org

IN THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SOLEMNITY: DECEMBER 8

What it is

- It is the **conception of Mary**. Through a special grace from God, she was kept free from Original Sin and lived her whole life free from sin in order to carry out her mission as the Mother of Jesus.
- It is an **ancient Church teaching**. While it was defined as dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854, the Church has held it as point of faith for centuries before.

What it is not

- It is **not a virgin birth**. Mary was conceived like any other person.
- It is **not the conception of Jesus**. We remember the conception of Jesus on the Feast of the Annunciation, which is celebrated on March 25.

The Miraculous Medal also known as the Medal of the Immaculate Conception has this prayer inscribed:

“O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.”



The Miraculous Medal



Why we celebrate

Because it is a **gift** that Mary said “*yes*” to God and bore his Son, Jesus!



Archdiocese of Toronto

www.archtoronto.org
archtoronto



ASSUMPTION OF MARY

At the moment of her death, Mary was taken to Heaven in body and soul.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mary, from the first moment of her conception was kept free of every stain of original sin.

MARY'S DIVINE MOTHERHOOD

Virgin Mary is the Mother of God.

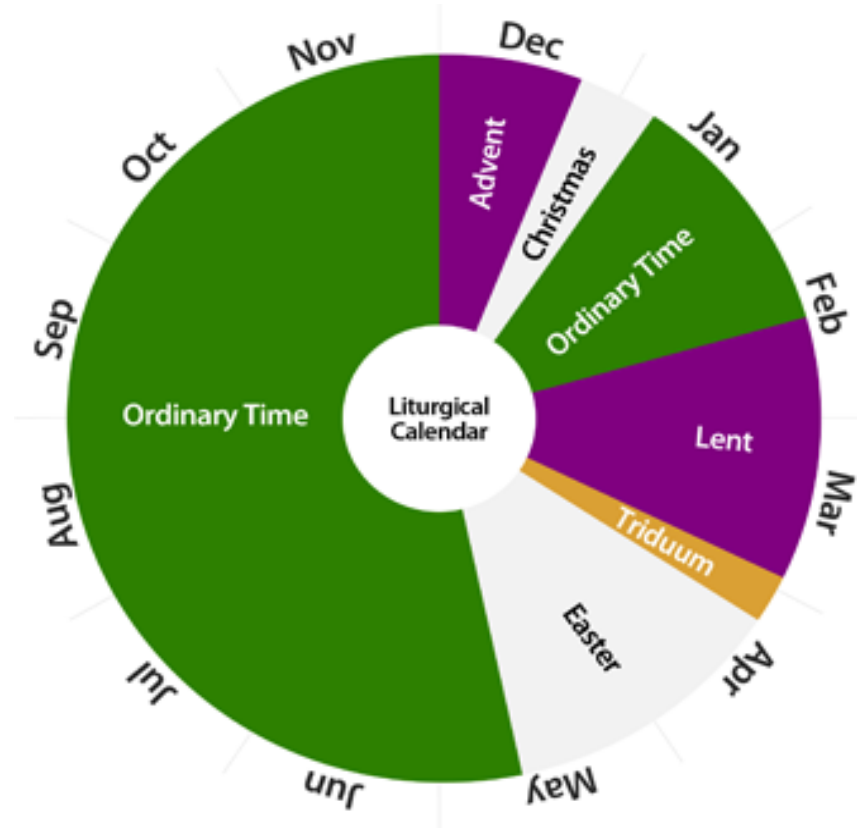
PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

She remained a virgin before, during and after Christ's conception and birth.

THE MARIAN DOGMAS

CatholicLink

A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR YEAR B—THE YEAR OF MARK



DID YOU KNOW?

- The liturgical year is made up of five seasons and Ordinary Time:
 - Advent - four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth;
 - Christmas - recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to all the peoples of the world;
 - Lent - a six-week period of penance before Easter;
 - The Paschal Triduum - the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where we recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus;
 - Easter - 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit

Ordinary Time - divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas and another lasting about six months after Easter).

- In Year A, we use the Gospel of Matthew, in Year B, the Gospel of Mark, and in Year C, the Gospel of Luke.
- The First Reading is from the Old Testament, except in Easter Season. Then, the First Reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles.
- In addition to the readings, the liturgical calendar also determines the priest's vestment colours and the colours of the decorations in the church.
- The centre and heart of the liturgical year is the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday).

The Liturgical calendar year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, and ends on the Feast of Christ the King.