

"YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE TIME WILL COME"

by Fr. Jeremy Myers

Mark 13:33-37

We begin the season of Advent today. These four weeks that comprise the Advent season allow us time to prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus at Christmas. We are to pause our busy lives, take stock of who we are, and make spiritual repairs so that we can welcome the Son of God into this world. The gospel today echoes the theme of being prepared. It comes from that section of Mark's gospel that is concerned principally with the Lord's return at the end of time. The early Christians lived in daily expectation of the Lord's return and the evangelist urges them to not grow slack in their discipleship during the interval. The key words we hear Jesus say to his listeners in the gospel today is, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Surely we can see the truth in what Jesus is saying to us. While many have sat around debating when the Lord's second coming will be, time passes, opportunities for good are missed, and all the while the Lord comes into our midst in various faces and places. We do not need to wait for the second coming to find the Lord. We can find the Risen Lord before us every day. We simply have to be watchful. We have to be alert. A young mom understands the importance and opportunities of every passing moment. She tells of how she walks to school with her two daughters each morning. She explains that the first half goes quickly. They need to get the older daughter to her kindergarten class in time. So they move the one-third of a mile to school without pause. She hugs her five-year-old daughter at the classroom door and turns back to the street. Now it is she and her four-year-old daughter and their walk back home is more leisurely. She says the return trip lasts as long as she is willing to let it. It's the same third of a mile, but the pace is slower because her daughter stops to explore the many mysteries on the road, such as a storm drain, or a fallen maple leaf, or a water puddle. Her four-year-old becomes excited when she finds a twig on the road or when she looks up to the sky and discovers a rainbow created by a water sprinkler on somebody's lawn. The little girl's attention moves from one thing to another. The mom savors the moment. "Watching her, I feel the rush of time," she says, "and I realize just how soon these walks of ours will end. Come September and she will be in kindergarten. I will leave both girls at school and walk home alone. Once again I'll travel as quickly as I want to, but the appeal of that will have faded. These slow morning walks with my four-year-old are the most fleeting kind of pleasure. I'll try to remember later, what she did and said, but the feeling of the moment, sweet and simple, will be gone." As she ponders the preciousness of each moment, she reaches down and takes her small daughter's hand and they walk home together. That young mom appreciates that life is precious, that time is fleeting, that our world changes with each moment. We know it if we are watchful, if we are alert. As we begin this special season of Advent, we might allow those two words to be our guides through the days ahead—watchful and alert. The Lord Jesus will come to us many times before Christmas day, but we will recognize him in our midst only if we are watchful and alert. Sometimes he will be found in a four-year-old child. Other times he will be found in an eighty-four year old man. But every moment offers us the possibility of encountering the divine one.



MASS INTENTIONS

December 4 - 10, 2017

Monday, December 4—Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Andy & †Virgie Rambin by Jim & Cheryl Rambin
Noon †Norman Deitz by Dee Beaver
(Bilingual) *Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11*

Tuesday, December 5—Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Jeanne Caruso by Rod & Carol Reichelt
Noon †Paul Hood by David Foster Family
(Bilingual) *Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24*

Wednesday, December 6—Advent Weekday

9:30 a.m. **Communion Service - No School Mass**
Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7—Saint Ambrose, Bishop

8:00 a.m. †Tyler McGuire by Mac McGuire
Isaiah 26:1-6; Mathew 7:21, 24-27

Anticipatory Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:00 p.m. †Linda Davis by Don & Nan Davis
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 8—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Keith and Kayla Burnett by Mom & Dad
9:30 a.m. Intentions of Jackie Alvarez by Frank
(School Mass) Alvarez
Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9—Advent Weekday

4:30 p.m. †Patti Adami by John & Karen Brennan
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Aaron Soltero by Mom & Dad
10:30 a.m. †Caroline Ann Kelsey by Bryan & Shannon Kalil
12:30 p.m. Parishioners by Pastor
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Mark 1:1-8

STEWARDSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2017

NEEDED TO MEET BUDGET	\$14,500.00
RECEIVED - November 19 th	\$11,742.50
DIFFERENCE	—\$ 2,757.50
RECEIVED - November 26 th	\$15,226.13
DIFFERENCE	\$ 726.13
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE	—\$ 4,497.40

Thank you for sharing your blessings with others.

"We know the sacrifice that God gave to us to show how much he loves us. How we use our time, talent and treasure shows God how much we love him."

Author Unknown

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Reason for the Season

Our parish Christmas Project of providing food and clothing and a Christmas gift to the residents in a local low-rent apartment complex has gotten off to a great start. We thank the many parishioners who picked up a grocery list or agreed to provide a toy for a child. Likewise, we are grateful to those who made a monetary donation that will help us buy a ham for each family and perhaps something for each adult. All items will need to be returned by Monday, December 11th. Items may be returned on the weekend (our church trailer will be in the parking lot behind St. Anne's for drop-offs) or at the Parish Center during the week. If you were away last weekend and would like to participate in this project, please call the Church Office. We welcome all participants. "As long as you did it for one of these least ones, you did it for me," says the Lord. Fr. Jeremy

Please remember in your prayers all the faithful departed, especially Betty Harder, who died last week, and Heath Richmond, grandson of Joe & Donna Hood, who died last week and was buried in Mooreland, OK. May they join the communion of saints who praise God forever.

We welcome into our community of faith the following children who were baptized at St. Anne's Church on Saturday morning: Catherine Cruz, Gabriela Garcia, Angel Isaias Martinez, Clara Guadalupe Martinez, Kaila Marsela Martinez, Antonio Joel Ramirez, Arazely Jazlyn Ramirez, Avelyn Jazmine Ramirez, Jonathan Aldair Rivas, and Erik Alfredo Rodriguez. May the waters of baptism bring them into this family of faith and to life eternal with God.



Blessings to Alejandro Martinez and Daisy Martinez who were united in marriage Saturday afternoon at St. Mary's Church. May they enjoy great love for each other all the days of their lives.

St. Mary's School invites all parishioners to join us at Chick-fil-A this Tuesday, December 5th, from 3 - 10 p.m. for Tiger Time food, fun and fellowship. Mention St. Mary's School before ordering for a donation to be made to the school.

Voices of Angels Youth Choir will practice on Wednesday, December 6th, at St. Anne's Church, from 5 to 5:45 p.m. The choir will sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 10th, and at the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 17th. New singers are always welcome!

Attention middle school and high school youth! Please come and help with our parish Christmas project by loading the trailer after Mass this weekend, December 2nd and 3rd, and next weekend, December 9th and 10th. We need youth to load gifts after all Masses, and to possibly help sort items (day/time to be announced). For more information and to help, please contact hscheibmeir@stmarych.org or kgionfriddo@stmarys-sch.org.

This Wednesday, December 6th, there will not be a School Mass. Instead, there will be a Communion Service. The School Mass will be on Friday, December 8th.

There will be a Penance Service this Wednesday, December 6th, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Church. Several priests will be hearing confessions. Advent is considered to be one of the penitential seasons so this is a good time to avail ourselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Columbian Ladies will meet this Wednesday, December 6th, at 6:30 p.m. in the KC Hall for our annual Christmas Party. Please bring a \$10 gift for the Christmas gift exchange game. All members are encouraged to attend. Our hostesses are Carol Reichelt and Beth Williams.

HOLY-DAY-OF OBLIGATION *This Friday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be an anticipatory Mass this Thursday, December 7th, at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. On Friday there will be an 8 a.m. Mass and 9:30 a.m. School Mass at St. Mary's Church. There will be a 6 p.m. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Whitesboro on Friday, December 8th.*

Knights of Columbus, 3rd Degree, will meet this Thursday, December 7th, at 7:30 p.m. in the KC Hall.

St. Mary's Singles monthly potluck dinner and game night is this Saturday, December 9th, at St. Anne's Place following the Saturday afternoon Mass. Come join the fun. Call Jo Adams at 903-814-7265 or Jan Lackey at 903-532-6586 or email singles@stmarych.org for more information.

St. Mary's Choir, along with Voices of Angels Youth Choir, invite all parishioners and guests to our Christmas Cantata "Hope!" on Sunday, December 17th, at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Hope! a Gospel Christmas Celebration, tells the story of Christ's birth in a contemporary gospel style with plenty of familiar carols. Please join us!

If you would like to have someone remembered in the Christmas Novena of Masses, cards are available in the narthex of the Church. Please return the envelope by Friday, December 22nd.



PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN) A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.



PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.