



Waiting, but Quick!

MIGUEL DULICK

This is the first Sunday of Advent, and the excitement is palpable. Writing 800 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah sounds like breaking news: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." The psalmist announces we are already there: "And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem." Saint Paul tickles our fancy with another whole round of "revelation" yet to come "on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." Only Jesus himself seems a little cautious: "Be watchful! Be alert!" The Lord "is coming," but he's not here yet. Leave it to Jesus to force the paradox for which Advent seems to have been created: Jesus is present, but we dare not "sleep," lest we miss him!

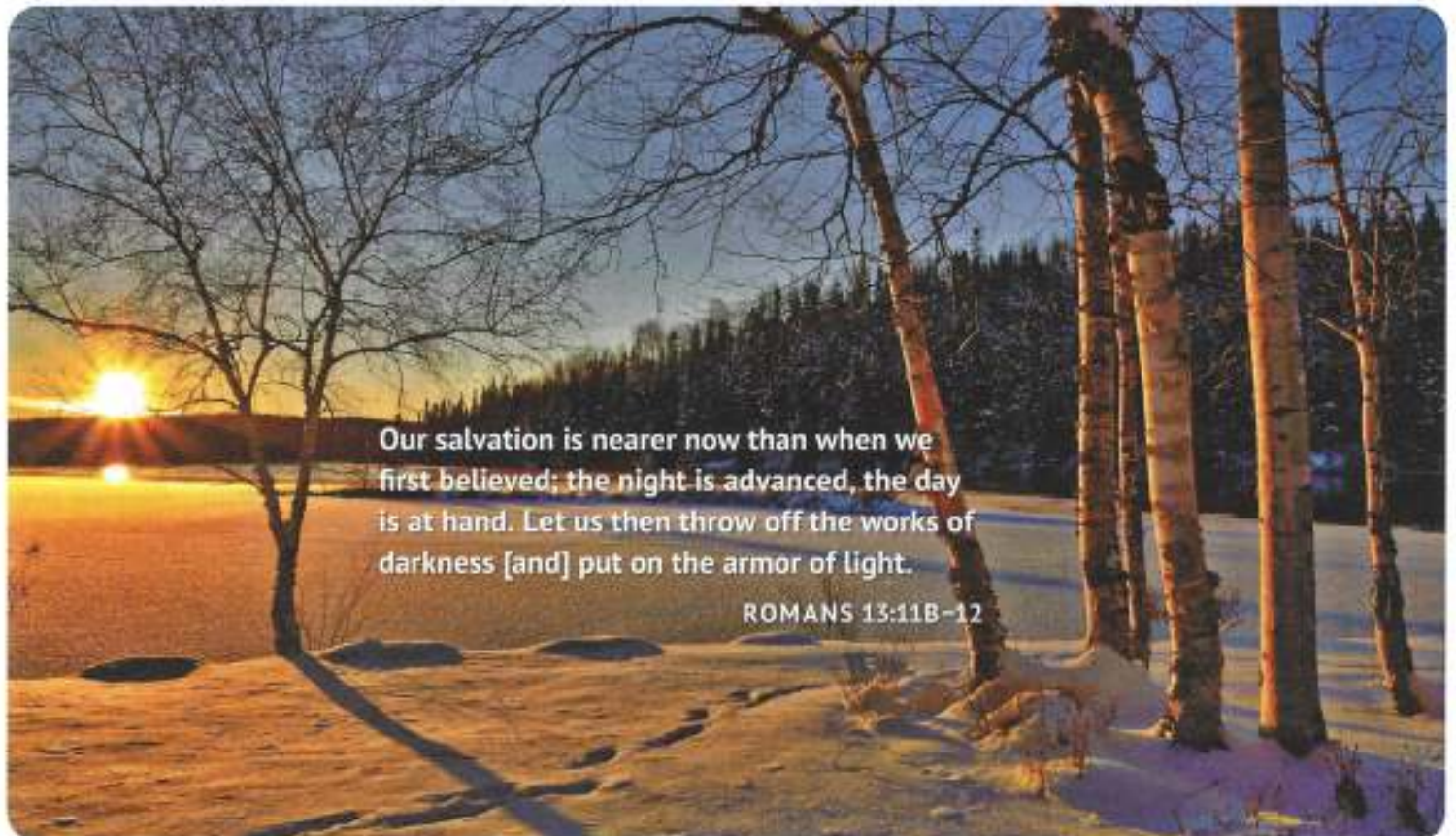
How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the "Merry Christmas!" / "Happy Holidays!" debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there's no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries to slow us down and encourage a little reflecting to prepare the way, led by John the Baptist. So let's keep waiting; let's hold on to our peace. Christmas Eve will be here soon enough. But let's not be too austere. A full menu of holiday parties and concerts and family feasts can legitimately "anticipate" Christmas. Let's cheer each other: Merry Advent! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

What can I do to prepare for Christmas mindfully, peacefully, and joyfully?



Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light.

ROMANS 13:11B-12

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com



CCD Classes

Sunday, November 30th - NO CLASS

**Sunday, December 7th— Children's Mass 9am @ HT for K-8th Grade
K-5th grade class(10:00am-11:00am)**

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 1, 2025

Monday	12/1			† No Mass
Tuesday	12/2	9:00 am	STM Site	† Fr. Paul Meisner
Wednesday	12/3	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Tony Panizzi
Thursday	12/4	9:00 am	HT Site	† John & Dena Bussa
Friday	12/5	9:00 am	STM Site	† Gene & Josie Weberski

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 6-7, 2025

Saturday	12/6	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Julie Taliani/Laurence Nuco Fonderoli
Sunday	12/7	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT WHAT IT MEANS

The First Sunday of Advent marks a vibrant beginning to the Advent season, falling on the fourth Sunday before Christmas each year.

This event serves as the kickoff to a period of anticipation and reflection leading up to Christmas, symbolizing the spiritual journey of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the anticipation of His return.

This day holds a special significance as it represents various virtues that Christ brings to the world, such as hope, love, joy, and peace, each highlighted on subsequent Sundays of Advent.

The First Sunday of Advent has a rich history that intertwines with the evolution of the Christian liturgical calendar. Initially, the celebration and observances we associate with Advent today weren't clearly defined in the early Christian Church.

It wasn't until the fourth century that practices resembling Advent began appearing, notably in Spain and Gaul, where the period leading up to Christmas began to take on a preparatory nature, similar to that of Lent before Easter.

The formalization of Advent, including setting the length to four Sundays, occurred much later. In the early centuries, different regions practiced varying lengths and types of preparation.

Traditionally, the first candle, often purple, is lit on an Advent wreath to symbolize hope. Along with prayers and readings, this act focuses on spiritual readiness and reflection.

Christians observe this day as a remembrance of Jesus' historical birth and a time of spiritual renewal and expectation. It's a chance to ponder and anticipate the profound impact of Christ's first coming.

His second coming imbues the season with a sense of promise and preparation. This dual focus encourages believers to live their daily lives with hope and vigilance, looking forward to fulfilling divine promises. (Excerpted from "daysoftheyear.com")



Announcements

The Christmas Schedule for 2025 is as follows:

Christmas Eve Mass— 5pm at STM site

Christmas Day— 9:30am at HT site

Christmas Decorating

It's that time of year again for volunteers to come together to help decorate our Churches for Christmas. Decorating may begin after December 20th. People who would still like to make a Christmas flower donation, please don't forget to take a Christmas flower envelope at the back of each Church.

Christmas Toy Drive – Last Minute Reminder

The Toy Drive collection deadline will be on Sunday, December 7th. Therefore, if you still want to donate toys to this meaningful project, please bring your toys to the churches on or before this date.

The Village of Cherry 2025 Christmas Parade

Join for a fun night on December 6th at 5:30pm on Main Street filled with Christmas Spirit. Cookies, Hot Chocolate and Santa at the Park following with a Parade and a special performance by "The Mistletoe Misfits" If you have any questions please contact Kathy 815-228-8580 or Lori 815-993-8314.

St. Barbara Fundraising: Pick three tickets are now available at \$20 per ticket; the drawing will be on Friday Jan. 9, 2026 in the evening .





Latest Offering's
November 23rd Weekend
St. Barbara Parish
Total Collections:
\$2,289.00

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150th Anniversary Book**

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sure to order
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too late!!



Next Confessions
Confession will be
Sat. December 6th
HT site in the
Confessional

Dear Padre,

Is Advent a penitential season?

Strictly speaking, the penitential times in the Church are “every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent” (*Code of Canon Law*, 1250). Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s First Coming is remembered, and this remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. (See *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 39.) While Advent is more anticipatory than penitential, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.” Although, historically, Advent was similar to Lent as a forty-day period of prayer and fasting, it was less severe than the season preceding Easter, and it lacked uniformity in the Western Church. The Eastern Church still begins the Nativity Fast on November 15, while in the Western Church, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.

Regardless, the significant focus of Advent is our Lord’s coming (*adventus* in Latin). The Church reflects this anticipation of Advent through such practices as limiting floral arrangements in the sanctuary, simpler liturgical music, and omitting the Gloria at Mass until Christmas. We can also reflect the anticipation of Advent through such spiritual practices as participation in works of charity, moderation in shopping, celebration of the sacrament of penance, fasting on Fridays, and prayerful contemplation on our Savior’s Incarnation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7
Advent	Advent	St. Francis	Advent	Advent	Advent	Second Sunday
Weekday	Weekday	Xavier, Priest	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	of Advent
Is 4:2-6	Is 11:1-10	Is 25:6-10a	Is 26:1-6	Is 29:17-24	Is 30:19-21,	Is 11:1-10
Mt 8:5-11	Lk 10:21-24	Mt 15:29-37	Mt 7:21, 24-27	Mt 9:27-31	23-26	Rom 15:4-9
					Mt 9:35-10:1,	Mt 3:1-12
					5a, 6-8	



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We are called to offer God’s love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people. Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025