

# *The First Sunday of Advent*

## *Be Watchful! Be Alert!*

Readings: IS 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7 • Psalm Response 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 • 1 COR 1:3-9 • MK 13:33-37

**Faith Reflection Groups, Personal Prayer, and Family Sharing**



### **Appreciating the Word—*Be Watchful! Be Alert!***

I remember hearing a story a ways back that always makes me smile. I think it went like this: some very pious seminarians approached Pope John XXIII and asked very earnestly “Holy Father, if Jesus were to come today, if this was the time for the second coming, what should we do?” With tongue firmly planted in cheek I’m sure, the good Pope responded “look busy!”

This gospel reminds me that I want God to find me doing good works. Wouldn’t it be terrible if we were caught being the lesser version of ourselves? Gossiping? Cheating? Being selfish? It’s so easy to get lazy in our spiritual life. Being alert to where God is moving in our lives takes mindfulness. As we begin another Advent this reading is a wonderful reminder, at least for these four weeks, to try to be our better selves. As God watches us, God is always hoping in us, that we choose what is right and good, holy and healthy as often as we can. So for Advent, let us remind ourselves too, that we want to look purposefully to find where and how God is acting in our daily lives. Choose good. Choose God.

Reflection by Jayne Porcelli, St. Francis de Sales Church, New York City  
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### **Reflection Questions**

- + In the first reading we are reminded that it is God who fashions us but we need to allow the molding as clay in the hands of the potter. Describe a time in your life when you were aware of being changed and molded by God.
- + What is it that you need to hear from God this Advent?
- + The Gospel is all about readiness—Jesus gives a stern warning – we must always be ready for the coming of the Messiah – we know not the day nor the hour. How do you consciously live in readiness?

### **Action – Living Out the Gospel**

- + What will you do to make the most of this season of Advent to be ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

### **Reflecting on My Home**

- + What is one special thing you will do to prepare your home or your guests for Christmas?

### **Reflecting on My Parish**

- + How does our parish remind you and prepare you to be ready to meet Jesus?

## *Conversations that Matter*

**You can still join a Advent Scripture group!**

Call Sr. Donna at 973-376-1960 x. 3501 or email: [srdonna@stroseshorthills.org](mailto:srdonna@stroseshorthills.org)

Sunday Group meets at 10 AM in Sr. Donna’s office in the Devine Center

*Make Advent YOUR Special Time with God*