

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, 23–26	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	Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8	Rom 15:4–9
						Mt 3:1–12



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



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

Week of November 30, 2025

Monday 8:00am Piedmont

Tuesday: 8:00am Piedmont

Wednesday 6:00pm Piedmont Cathy Bono

Thursday: 8:00am Piedmont 5:15 Van Buren

Friday: 8:00am Piedmont

Saturday 4:30pm Williamsville/

Sunday 8:30am Van Buren

11:00am Piedmont Parish Family

Tues. 6:00pm Adoration Piedmont

Sunday Nov. 7 2:00 Concert Choir/ Trinity Methodist

Can you make an hour a week to be with me I'm waiting for you.

BISHOP RICE'S NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

Let us remember our dearly-departed family and friends: May they may rest in the peace of Christ. And, let us pray for lasting peace in our war-torn world, through the intercession of Christ the King. (Nov. 23)

RELIGION CLASSES

Please sign in to catholiconline.com choose catholic education and, if preparing for a sacrament choose the appropriate sacrament.

Outreach for Oct. Med. 90 .00 Rent 400.00 2 fam / Utilities 2465.00 28 fam. / Gas 55 people \$1375



Donations Nov. 16 Weekday Mass Attendance

St. George	1444	Thurs	4
St. Catherine	1683	Wed	3

Our Lady

PARISH DIRECTORY

We are privileged to again have a parish directory. On Dec. 8 in Piedmont and Dec. 15th in Van Buren Each participant will receive a free 8x11 portrait and a directory. Even if not interested in ordering please participate for the good of parish. We will also have an online directory which can be edited. Please sign up this Sunday or next.

Welcome To Our Tri-Parish

Following Jesus in the Foothills of the Ozarks

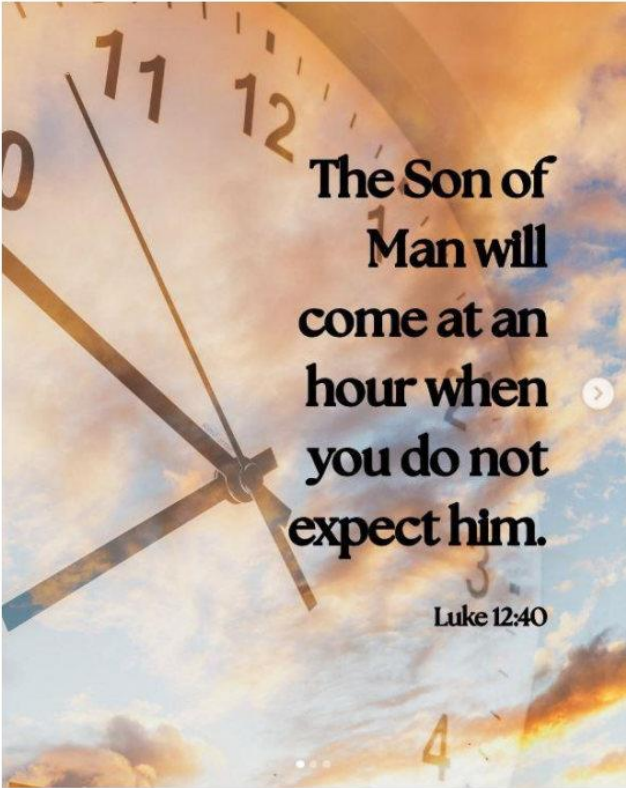
St. Catherine of Siena Piedmont Sunday 11:00 am



St. George Van Buren Sunday 8:30 am



Our Lady of Sorrows Williamsville Saturday 4:30 pm



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