



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!

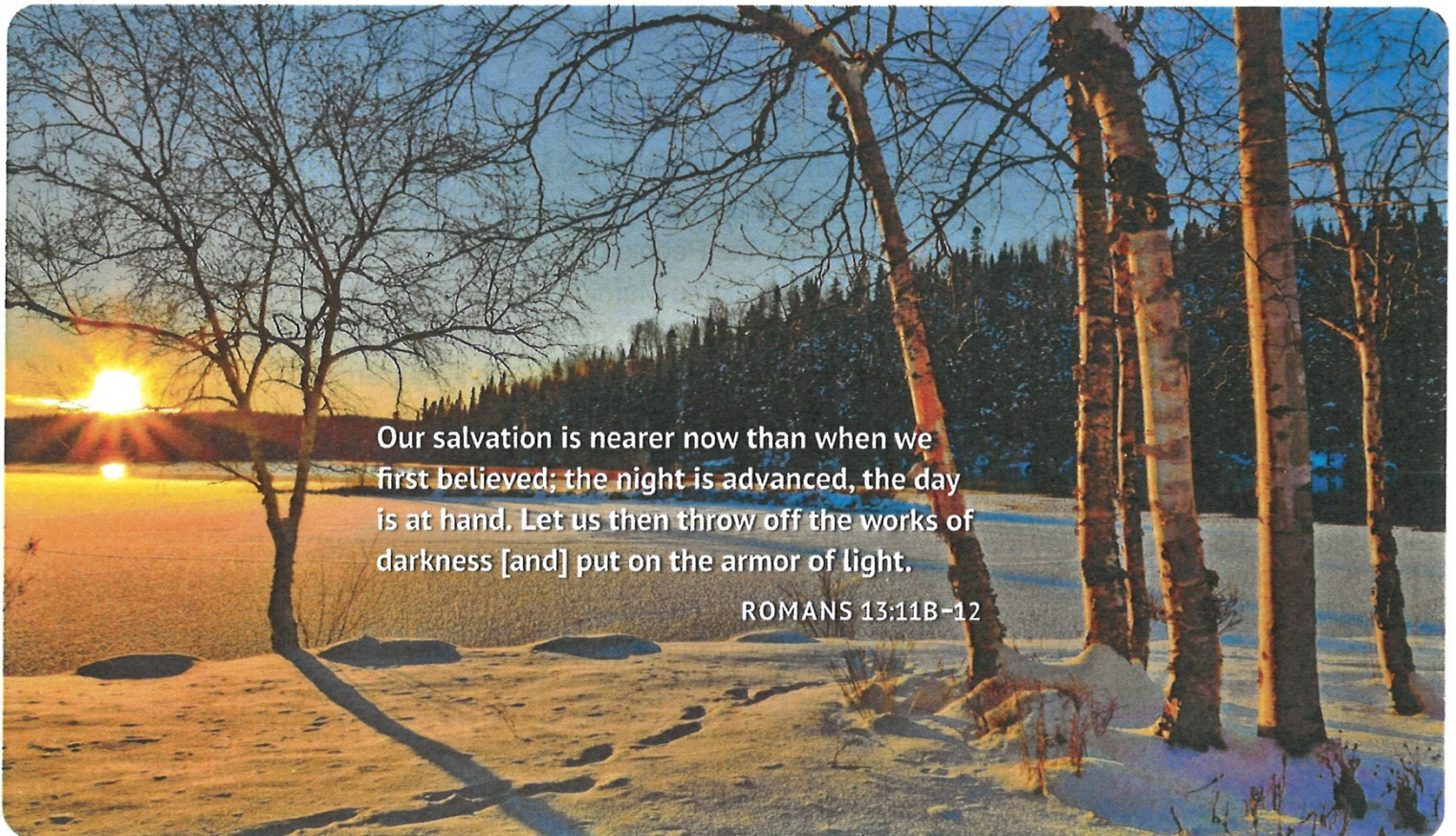
How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the “Merry Christmas!” / “Happy Holidays!” debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there’s no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries 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



**Immaculate Conception &
St. Joseph's Catholic Church**

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Mass Schedule – Forsyth

First Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule – Hysham

Sunday at 8:30 AM

Sunday at 12:30 PM

Office hours: By appointment – call 406.853.5252 or come to the rectory.

Religious Education: Contact Diane Wyrick for Forsyth at 406.351.2845 and Amber for Hysham at 406.342.5448.

Confession: Saturdays @ 2 PM.

Baptism: Adults and children under 7 (please contact Father Rob.)

Anointing of the Sick: If you are having surgery or are sick, please contact Father Rob to receive the Sacrament of Anointing.

Funerals: When anticipating or planning a funeral, please contact Father Rob before finalizing the arrangements.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered and be listed in the bulletin, please contact Father Rob.

Homebound & Sick: If you or someone you know can no longer attend Mass due to physical inability, please contact Father Rob or Diane Wyrick at 406.351.2845 or Rosemary in Hysham at 406.740.1457 to receive Holy Communion and Anointing.

Immaculate Conception Prayer Chain: For requests, call Cherie Heser at 406.351.9048 or any member of the Prayer Chain listed on the bulletin board in Parish Hall.

Mass & Liturgy Schedule:

Sunday	11/30	8:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Doris Abarr (D) from Fr Rob.
Sunday	11/30	12:30 PM	Mass in Hysham for Denise O'Reilly from Joan Thibault.
Tuesday	12/02	5:15 PM	Mass in Forsyth for the People of the Parish.
Friday	12/05	9:00 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Clarke Murnion (D) from Nick & LeAnn Murnion.
Saturday	12/06	4:00 PM	Mass at the Nursing Home for the Residents.
Sunday	12/07	8:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Della Walker (D) from Frank Smith.
Sunday	12/07	12:30 PM	Mass in Hysham for Maureen O'Reilly from Joan Thibault.

✠ Rosary every Monday at 8:15 AM, Tuesday at 4:45 PM and Friday at 8:30 AM.

✠ Religious education for children Sunday at 9:30 AM.

✠ Bible Study in Forsyth is Friday morning after Mass.

✠ CCD & Sacramental Prep Classes on Sunday morning. Questions: Please contact Diane Wyrick in Forsyth and Amber in Hysham.

✠ Mass times at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Colstrip Sunday 10:30 AM.

✠ CCW meeting the 2nd Sunday after Mass.

Announcements:

The Diocese has established expected goals for each Parish for the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Immaculate Conception Parish is set at \$8000. and St. Joseph Church is set at \$3500. If everyone will give at least a little, we should not have a problem reaching those goals. Thank you!

December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - a holy day of obligation and patronal feast of the U.S. as well as the Forsyth Parish. Masses will be at 5:30 PM in Colstrip and 7 PM in Forsyth followed by a social in the parish hall to celebrate. There will be a Communion Service with Deacon Jim in Hysham at 6 PM.

St. Joseph Church in Hysham will be serving it's annual Katie Olsen Pancake Dinner after Mass on Sunday, December 14th. All are invited.

Finance Update: Last Sunday Collection: 11/23/2025

Immaculate Conception – Forsyth		St. Joseph – Hysham	
Loose Cash	127.00	Loose Cash	60.00
Loose Checks	205.00	Loose Checks	170.00
Envelope Cash	125.00	Envelope Cash	10.00
Envelope Checks	960.00	Envelope Checks	315.00
Other (Bathroom)	25.00	Other	30.00
Stipend	0.00	Building Fund	0.00
Special Collection	0.00	Special Collection	0.00
Capital Campaign	0.00	Capital Campaign	0.00
Current Operating Fund	0.00	Current Operating Fund	0.00
TOTAL:	\$ 1442.00	TOTAL:	\$ 585.00

Forsyth & Hysham Ministry Schedule for next Sunday: 12/07/2025

Forsyth:			
	Time	Service	Names
	Mass at 8:30 AM	Eucharistic Ministers	LeAnn Murnion & Phil Steinberger
		Cross Bearer	LeAnn Murnion
		Lector	Nick Murnion
		Ushers	Nick & LeAnn Murnion
		Gifts	Nick & LeAnn Murnion
		Col. Counters	Frank Smith & Brian Sullivan
		Sacristan	Joan Duffield
Hysham:			
	Mass at 12:30 PM	Eucharistic Ministers	Del Warren & Brent Icopini
		Lector	Dale Zent

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

December 1

Advent

Weekday

Is 4:2–6

Mt 8:5–11

Tuesday

December 2

Advent

Weekday

Is 11:1–10

Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday

December 3

St. Francis

Xavier, Priest

Is 25:6–10a

Mt 15:29–37

Thursday

December 4

Advent

Weekday

Is 26:1–6

Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday

December 5

Advent

Weekday

Is 29:17–24

Mt 9:27–31

Saturday

December 6

Advent

Weekday

Is 30:19–21,

23–26

Mt 9:35–10:1,

5a, 6–8

Sunday

December 7

Second Sunday
of Advent

Is 11:1–10

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