

Gospel Reflection

Every Sunday, after the Lord's Prayer, we hear the words of an Advent prayer: "We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." In Latin, these words are *Exspectantes beatam spem et adventum Salvatoris nostri Jesu Christi*. We see our own words "expectant" and "advent" in them. Another way to say this might be "We are expectant, in joyful hope, at the advent of our Savior, Jesus Christ." Mothers and fathers know that being expectant, while it is a time of joyful hope, is not always an easy time. It is a mistake for us to think that our waiting in joyful hope for the coming of Christ can be a passive, uninvolved time. Quite the contrary! Like expectant parents, we must constantly be working to make sure everything is ready for the important arrival! As Isaiah prays to the coming Lord: "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" (Isaiah 64:4).

In the Gospel, Jesus moves us from passive waiting to the attitude of waiting in its active form – watchfulness. It is possible, when we are merely waiting, to occupy ourselves with other things. What Jesus tells us today is that we must be occupied with the work of the master; we must be alert, we must be met by him upon his return doing right and being mindful of him in our ways. Paul consoles us that this vigilant watchfulness need not tire us out, for Christ himself has enriched us and strengthened us to remain firm in our expectation, our joyful hope. It is in this way that we wait and watch for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, when he is revealed to us in glory.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Mark 13:33-37

E Y H O U S E D F O B G A
I M Q H M T T R E L A C T
M S G N I N R O M T M S P
Z U Y A L A A L E G L V W
N S Z X I V V K B E L A P
J E T B X R E J E M T F O
W J V H S E L P I C S I D
I Y W E P S I D H A F J U
Y K N E N N N H L T B C D
O I R M G I G Q Q C U F H
M Z V O G H N Z Z Q Q Z I
Q P M H W A O G F M O G M
C U T V C G L S H J E J Z

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

ALERT	DISCIPLES	EVENING
WORK	HOME	HOUSE
JESUS	LORD	MIDNIGHT
MORNING	SERVANTS	SLEEPING
TRAVELING	WATCH	GATEKEEPER

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The First Sunday of Advent
11/30/2008*

*Mark 13:33-37
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Mark 13:33-37*

The Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watch-
ful! Be alert! You do not know when
the time will come.

"It is like a man trav-
eling abroad. He leaves
home and places his ser-
vants in charge, each
with his own work, and
orders the gatekeeper to
be on the watch. Watch,
therefore; you do not
know when the lord of
the house is coming,
whether in the **evening**,



**or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in
the morning.** May he not come sud-
denly and **find you sleeping.** What I
say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

The Gospel of the Lord

You do not know when the Lord is coming



Gospel Glossary

cockcrow: refers to dawn, when a rooster's crow
signifies the start of a new day.

evening, midnight, cockcrow, morning: The or-
der here foreshadows Mark's account of Christ's
Passion – the last supper occurs in the evening, Jesus
prays at Gethsemane at midnight, He is denied by
Peter at cockcrow, and He is arrested and led away
in the morning.

find you sleeping: This serves as both general ad-
vice to believers and specific advice to the Apostles
who will find themselves unable to stay awake when
Jesus is praying at Gethsemane prior to His death
and resurrection.

"What I say
to you, I say
to all:
'Watch!'"



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- What causes me to experience fatigue and weariness?
- When does Christian living seem too demanding?
- How does Jesus renew my discipleship in spite of my weariness?

Closing Prayer

Father in Heaven,

Our hearts desire the warmth of your
love and our minds are searching for the
light of your Word. Increase our longing
for Christ our Savior and give us the
strength to grow in love that the dawn of
his coming may find us rejoicing in his
presence and welcoming the light of his
truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the
Lord.

Amen.

The First Sunday of Advent