

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



ADVENT QUIZ

1. The word ADVENT means:

- a. Spend lots of money on Christmas
- b. Arrival / Coming
- c. Birth of a notable Kind
- d. Prepare / Make way

2. The official color for most of the ADVENT season is:

- a. Red
- b. White
- c. Purple
- d. Pink

3. Which of these is NOT a meaning of one of the four candles on an Advent wreath:

- a. Peace
- b. Hope
- c. Patience
- d. Joy

4. During Advent, in addition to the Solemnities of Christmas, we also prepare for:

- a. Christ’s second coming
- b. living our faith in the New Year
- c. fasting and penance
- d. our own death

5. When are the O’Antiphons sung during Advent?

- a. Every Monday & Friday
- b. December 23 – 27
- c. Beginning on November 30
- d. December 17-23

6. Who created the first nativity scene?

- a. Pope Clement XVI
- b. St Francis
- c. St Clare
- d. St Nicholas

7. On the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, it is a tradition for the Pope to:

- a. Sing Silent Night in several languages
- b. Order coffee & donuts for all those who attend Mass
- c. Bless the baby Jesus that children bring to him from their home nativity.
- d. Bless the Christmas candle

Spreading Christmas Cheer to the Residents of Seven Sisters Living Center:

- Christmas gifts for Seven Sisters Living Center Residents
- Courtesy of Catholic Daughters and parish of St Anthony of Padua
- Pick a resident, buy a gift, wrap it and bring it to Church by December 7.
- OR give a donation and we will shop and wrap for you
- Stop by the table in the Gathering Space before/after Mass to pick a name
- We also need food donations for the party: sweets, treats, snacks etc....
- Text Irma at 605.890.1785 and let her know what you would like to bring

Please join us at the Seven Sisters Living Center Christmas Party December 17 at 6:15pm

Answers to Quiz: 1. – b, 2. – c, 3. – c, 4. – a, 5. – d, 6. – b, 7. – c

Welcome to Our Parish Community Sunday ~ November 30, 2025



St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Hot Springs, SD

Parish Office: ~ St Anthony Parish

Office Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm (closed for lunch ~ noon – 1:00pm)
Street Address: 538 University Ave
Mailing Address: PO Box 969 Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone: 605-745-3393
After Hours: 605-745-3278
Email: sohillscatholic@gwtc.net
Website: www.stanthonyhotsprings.org

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor:

Rev Collins Igwilo
cigwilo@diorc.org

Deacon:

Dcn. Craig Pearson
605-891-9164

Office Manager / Bookkeeper:

Susie Hayes
605-745-3393

Parish Office: ~ St James Parish

Street Address: 310 3rd Ave
Mailing Address: PO Box 568
UPS/FedEx: 308 3rd Ave Edgemont, SD 57735

Funeral Contact:

Linda Tidball 605-685-4301
Office Manager / Bookkeeper: Lynn Westberg 703-869-0886
lfwestberg@gmail.com

Mass Information:

Greg Lacey 605-662-5048

Weekend Mass Schedules:

Saturday ~ 5:30pm	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 8:00am	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 10:30am	St Anthony of Padua Church ~ Hot Springs, SD
Sunday ~ 2:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD

Waiting, but Quick!

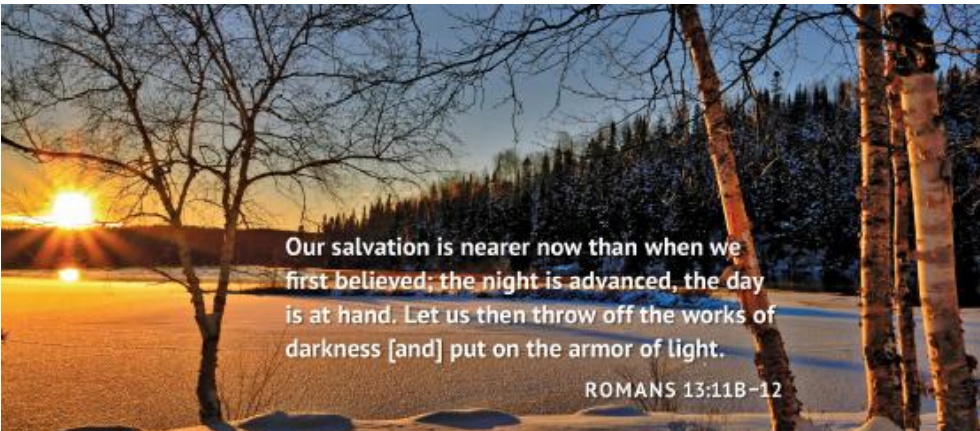
MIGUEL DULICK

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! ●

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



Welcome to our Catholic faith community. If you are a new parishioner interested in becoming part of our parish community, please stop by the Parish Office and register or call for more information.