



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Online Mass Offering:
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033J
Reference: Mass Collection

How Do We Wait for the Lord?

1st Sunday of Advent
30 Nov 2025

Is 2:1-5
Rom 13:11-14
Mt 24:37-44

Once again, we have reached the end of a liturgical year and entered another. While many begin the countdown to Christmas and prepare their presents for loved ones, the Church invites us to a different kind of disposition — preparing our hearts for the Lord.

Pope Benedict XVI shared that “The meaning of the expression ‘Advent’ therefore includes that of *visitatio*, which simply and specifically means ‘visit’; in this case it is a question of a visit from God: he enters my life and wishes to speak to me.” (Celebration of the First Vespers of Advent, 28 November 2009). God desires to speak to us and “teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths” (Is 2:3). In this season, we call attention to the fact that we are preparing our hearts for Emmanuel – God with us.

Preparing our hearts is akin to a movement where we “spring clean” our hearts. We throw out sin, tidy the parts which are in a mess and beautify it to make it presentable for God’s coming. In all this, we “give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark” and “arm ourselves and appear in the light” (Rom 13:13). At the same time, to

walk in his paths is not just to tidy our hearts and stay where we are. All three readings present a movement – to go up the mountain of the Lord (cf. Is 2:3); to rejoice (cf. Ps 122:1); to wake up (cf. Rom 13:11); and to stay awake (cf. Mt 24:42). Each movement is a reminder that our hearts are made for the living God who desires us to move as well. We all want to be our best before the Lord, and the start of Advent reminds us to be prepared.

However, do we only rely on the liturgical calendar to remind us to be ready? We rely on calendars and measures of time for so many aspects of our lives. We live our day-to-day lives by the minute or the hour, we plan our schedules to the day and the week, and we cast projected plans over intervals of years in order to give a certainty that we are in control of our lives

and its outcomes. But all these ways of keeping track with time place ourselves at the centre of a world that moves around us. Jesus says to his disciples: “So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming” (Mt 24: 42). The Lord, in his time, moves, and we are tasked to be ready for his arrival in our lives. However, the way we read this line shapes our understanding of what Jesus’ coming means to us. We could read this as a warning of impending doom or as a plea of love to be ready.

How do we wait for the Lord? Do we get a rude awakening to start and begin waiting anxiously? Advent, while it is the season on our liturgical calendar to prepare, is not only done within these four weeks before Christmas. We experience little advents throughout the liturgical year and this season is one where that experience is made even more explicit for us to remember who it is we are waiting for. God does not only desire to speak to us at this time of the year, but he desires to speak to us every day. Every day we are invited to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord, and every day the Lord enters our lives to speak to us, regardless of our readiness. Here, the words of the gospel acclamation ring through as both a cry for help and a rousing testament of grace: “Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help” (Ps 84:8).

We may not know the time, but what we can know is that we do not need to be afraid of the Lord coming into our hearts. We do not prepare our hearts for one who enters violently, but God becoming man, as a baby.



*God does not only
desire to speak to us
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Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs



**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MASS HYMNS**
www.sfxchurch.sg/mass

FAULTY CHURCH PEWS?

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church? Scan the QR code to share with us at tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport.



2026 CATHOLIC NEWS DESKTOP CALENDAR SALE

The Catholic News Calendar 2026 is now available! The 2026 edition's theme 'Peace be with you' reflects Pope Leo XIV's first words to the world on his election and invites us to respond to his clarion call for harmony in a troubled world. Drop by the Parish Office to get a copy at **\$10**, while stocks last!

CATECHISM SCHEDULE NOTICE

There will be a break from 30 Nov onwards, and sessions will resume on 11 Jan 2026.

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 1 Dec, 8pm** at the Mount Tabor Adoration Room, where we will pray together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Submit your prayer requests at www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

ADVENT BIBLE SHARING WITH SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (SCC)

Looking for a community to journey with this Advent? Join us as we break open the Word together. We will be using the Advent booklet by ONE as part of our reflections. Bring your Bible and a friend.

Date: 2, 9, 16, 23 Dec (Tuesdays)
Time: 8pm
Venue: Thessalonians Room
(Level 2 Parsonage)

THANK YOU, BR KENNETH

Br Kenneth concludes his regency stint with us on 30 Nov. We thank him for his presence, support and contributions to our parish. Let us keep him and his fellow seminarians in prayer as they continue their formation towards priesthood.



BLESSED FEAST DAY! (3 DECEMBER)

Our Parish Priests and staff wish all parishioners blessed and joyous Feast Day! With grateful hearts, we thank all volunteers whose dedication helped make our Triduum and Feast Day celebrations meaningful and fruitful.



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES (SERANGOON DISTRICT)

Tue 9 Dec, 8pm: Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary
Wed 10 Dec, 8pm: Church of St Vincent de Paul
Thu 11 Dec, 8pm: **Church of St Francis Xavier**
Fri 12 Dec, 8pm: Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mon 15 Dec, 8.15pm: St Anne's Church
Tue 16 Dec, 8pm: Church of the Transfiguration



ADVENT PRAYER TREE

What better idea than to give someone in need the gift of intentional prayer this Christmas? Just as we did in previous years, think of someone to pray for - either to return to Church or be open to knowing the Lord. The prayer tags will be available for you to write your prayers and hang them on our Advent trees. As a community of faith, we will pray for all these intentions throughout Advent.

PARISH FUND RAISING WALK FOR THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH OF ST JUDE THADDAEUS

We invite parishioners to pray for safety and good weather for the 88 participants and volunteers who will be participating in the 16km Walk on **Sat 6 Dec**.

We also thank all parishioners who have donated to the Parish Project. There is a short trailer on the preparation by the participants on our social media platforms. Please 'like' and donate via **PayNow to UEN T08CC4033J**. Kindly indicate St Jude Thaddaeus in the 'Add a Message' or 'Remarks' field. God loves a cheerful giver.

Parishioners may return the Donation Cards and the funds solicited after the Masses on the weekend of **13-14 Dec 2025** or to Grace Tan (Finance) at the Parish office during office hours. All Donation Cards are to be returned by **Mon 15 Dec 2025**. For donation related enquiries, please contact Alfred Goh (9822 2695).

OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION (ONE): ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BOOKLET 2025

This Advent, let your heart be stirred by a thrill of hope! Journey from Advent to Christmas with ONE's Reflection Booklet — a simple, prayerful guide for families, small groups, and individuals to encounter Christ anew. Each week offers Scripture reflections, thought-provoking questions, and sharing guides to help you break open the Word and discover how hope continues to dawn in our lives today. Download your copy at one.org.sg



MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE ADVENT RETREAT: OPEN THE DOOR TO JESUS CHRIST

Montfort Centre is organizing a stay-in Montfortian Experience Retreat this Advent on 1st to 4th December at Montfort Centre, Upper Bukit Timah Road. The theme of the retreat: "Open The Door To Jesus Christ". For more information, scan the QR code.

Dates: 1 - 4 Dec (Stay-In Retreat)
Venue: Montfort Centre (624 Upper Bukit Timah Rd)
Register: [www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/
open-the-door-to-jesus-christ-individual-guidedretreat-1](http://www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/open-the-door-to-jesus-christ-individual-guidedretreat-1)



Advent: A Season of Hope

WEEK 1 - ANTICIPATION AND PREPARATION



As we enter the 1st Sunday of Advent, the Church invites us to pause and rekindle our hope in the Lord. Advent is a gentle season of waiting — not passive, but expectant. In the busyness of our days, may we learn again to recognise God's quiet presence in our lives. Let us begin this journey with open hearts, watching and preparing for the coming of Christ into our world and into our hearts. Here are some simple ways to enter the season meaningfully this week:



Make space for quiet time

Spend a few minutes each day in silence. Let God speak into the busyness.



Practise small acts of kindness

A smile, a text of encouragement, or helping someone in need can be a light in someone's darkness.



Return to gratitude

End each day by naming one thing you are grateful for. Gratitude opens the heart to hope.



Be watchful

Notice God's blessings and invitations throughout the day.



Reconcile

Reach out to someone you need to forgive or be reconciled with.



Simplify

Reduce one unnecessary distraction to make room for prayer.



RENEWAL AND CONVERSION:

Pope Leo XIV describes Advent as a "moment of grace" to confess sins, welcome God's pardon, and begin a new life. It is an opportunity to leave behind prejudices and mindsets that limit our understanding of God and our neighbour.

Advent Traditions



Advent Wreath: A circle of greenery with four candles, plus a central white "Christ candle".

- Each week, a new candle is lit, representing one of the themes (hope, peace, joy, and love).
- Purple is the traditional color for Advent candles, with a rose-colored candle lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday) to signify joy.



Advent Calendar: A calendar with daily doors, windows, or pockets to open, which may reveal a picture or a piece of chocolate, serving as a countdown to Christmas.



Jesse Tree: A tree decorated with ornaments representing the ancestors of Jesus, as a visual connection to the generations leading up to his birth.

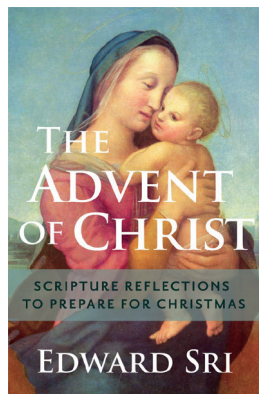
Advent Readings for the whole family

"Advent... helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ."

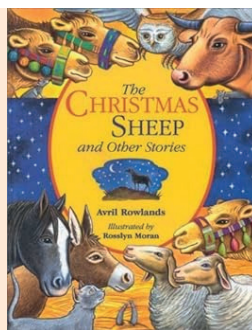
- Pope St John Paul II, Dec 18, 2002



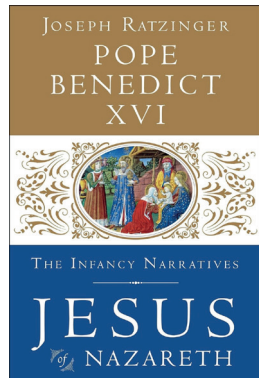
"Twas the Season of Advent: Devotions and Stories for the Christmas Season" by Glenys Nellist (2021) - This is a 25-day devotional that is a great read-aloud book with children 4-8 years of age. Written in both poetry and prose and based on the famous poem, *"Twas the Night Before Christmas,"* it guarantees to be a delightful and fun way to recall the birth of baby Jesus.



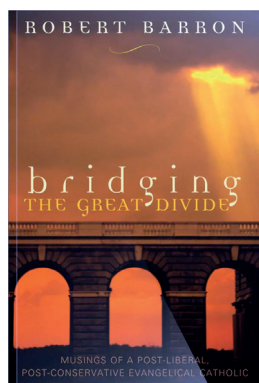
"The Christmas Sheep and Other Stories" by Avril Rowlands & Rosslyn Moran (2001) - Many Christmas crib scenes include a donkey, a horse, a bull, sheep, birds and other small animals crowded around the Infant Jesus in wonder and awe - some even on bended knees! Find out what they knew so profoundly that some of us still fail to recognise!



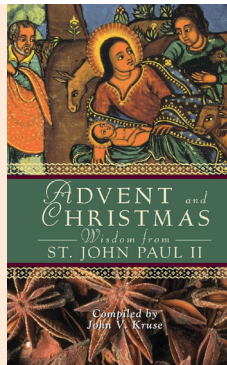
"The Advent of Christ: Scripture Reflections to Prepare for Christmas" by Dr Edward Sri (2013) - "A virgin giving birth, a child laid in a manger, and shepherds greeted by angels no longer arrest our attention. But what if we had never heard the story before?... This Advent I invite you to put yourself in that first-century Jewish world and discover the spiritual treasures that are packed into practically every line and every detail of the Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke..." - p ix



"Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives" by Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger, 2012) - "[At the Annunciation] Mary's response... unfolds in three steps... Mary becomes a mother through her 'yes.' The Church Fathers sometimes expressed this by saying that Mary conceived through her ear - that is to say: through her hearing. Through her obedience, the Word entered into her and became fruitful in her." - pp 26-37



"Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Pope John Paul II" compiled by John V. Kruse (2006) - "Solidarity With the Marginalised: The Season of Advent... spurs us to prepare ourselves to welcome the Lord who will come [again in glory]. But how should we prepare?... a concrete way to prepare ourselves for this meeting is by closeness and sharing with those who are in difficulty. By recognising Christ in our brethren, we are preparing to be recognised by him at his final return." - p 32



"Bridging the Great Divide - Musings of a Post-liberal, Post-Conservative Evangelical Catholic" by Bishop Robert Barron (2004) - "Advent is the liturgical season of vigilance... of waiting...I, for one, can't stand waiting...I want answers, direction, clarity, and I want them pronto... But is it possible that we are made to wait because the track we are on is not the one God wants for us?...[let us] see the wait as a spiritual invitation... to slow down, [to] pray..." - pp 165-170



Mass Times

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat: 5.30pm

Sun: 7am, 9am,
11am, 5.30pm
(There is currently no
Confession before Mass)

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

9am

CONFESSION

Contact Parish Office to
make an appointment.

Fri:
4pm - 6pm

Sat:
10am - 12pm

Opening Hours

MAIN GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

BACK GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm

Sun: 8.30am - 1pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ADORATION ROOM

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays

LIBRARY

Sat: 4.20pm - 5.20pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon - Fri:
10am - 7.30pm

Sat - Sun:

8.30am - 7.30pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.



INFANT BAPTISM

Spiritual preparation is held on the last Friday of every odd month. Baptism is held on the first/second Sunday of the following month. For registration, please refer to our website.



FUNERAL

Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact the Parish Office.



MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date.



MASS OFFERING

Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office and outside JP11 Hall. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.



VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg