

## The Rumble Strips of Advent

**B**eware that your hearts do not become drowsy! The sleepy apostles couldn't keep awake with Jesus and drifted off when he most needed them.

I have only fallen asleep at the wheel once. During college, I worked the morning shift starting at 6 AM. After a late night with little sleep, I sluggishly got into my car. Comfortably driving down the highway at about 5:15 AM, I dozed for a few seconds before awakening to the noise of my tires vibrating on the warning tracks—just in time to straighten the wheel and avoid the cement divider.

Advent is like those rumble strips. You don't always need them, they are annoying when you accidentally run over them, but they are very important!

We can get tired, trying to keep our hearts awake and attuned to Jesus. The rhythm of life, the background music of the world, the distractions that fly by us—they all contribute to the danger of a passive heart. Running across Advent is like a wake-up call: "Stay awake! He is almost here."

As in driving, there are many distractions vying for your attention, but you learn to focus on what's important. You survey your surroundings, looking for hazards while keeping your eyes on the road. There are many signs to read, but only certain ones point you where you want to go.



Jesus says to be attentive to the signs; learn to interpret their meaning. Understand them, without being distracted by them. Be vigilant, pray for strength, and stay awake and alert. Thanks be to God for those rumble strips!

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*Do I believe there is a limited time to my life on earth? Since I do not know when Jesus will arrive, isn't peaceful awareness of his eventual return the smartest attitude?*

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*[Jesus said,] "May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."  
(Mark 13:36)*

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**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK**

**St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak**

**Mailing address:** 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

**Email:** cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Pastor:** Rev. George Thirumangalam CMI

**Mass Schedule: Cyclone:** Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

**Marak:** Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 6PM

**The Sacraments:**

**Baptism:** On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

**Confessions:** Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

**Marriage:** Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

**December 03, 2017 : The First Sunday of Advent**

**"Be watchful!" Be alert!" - Jesus Christ, the Lord is coming.....**

May Advent open new Realities to you:

At the turn of the new year the church offers scenes of chaos: portents and signs in the heavens, broiling clouds, floods, hail, fire. (Mark 13:24-26)

The Church gives these apocalyptic warnings as a gift, to shake away complacency, to shock in to second sight, to awake to the immediacy of salvation wrapped in the breathtaking clouds of doom. Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to all: WATCH.

The soul's journey begins in apocalypse. Cataclysm dims the safe filters of ordinary sight to heighten the view of reality. Shock, fear, grief, courage, and then, perhaps, curiosity, opens the door to the mystical life. Once you pass through the threshold of doom, ultimately, you'll awake to the beauty of holiness. What a beautiful and mysterious time! Have a blessed Advent—of simplicity, of depth, of darkness waiting for light...—Suzanne Guthrie

**NOTE: December 8, Friday: The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, a day of obligation. Please make time to attend Mass. Marak — Friday at 6:00PM .**

**Cyclone —Thurs. 6:30 pm Vigil Mass and Friday 7:00 am**

**Reconciliation Schedule : Cyclone—Wed. December 6th 7:00 pm**

**Marak: Wed. December 13th at 7:00 pm --- No Mass**

**Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes are in Church Entry .**

**Please make checks payable to St. Ann's Altar Society.**

**Bulletin Information: MARAK:** Merlene Slavik (254-697-1247) - **CYCLONE:** Nancy Posvar (254-869-2511)

**Bulletin deadline :** Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!



**Ministries for Immaculate Conception—Holy Day Fri., Dec. 8th**

**Volunteers for NEEDED** -Ushers, Lector, Offertory & Eucharistic Minister

**Altar Servers** Addison Dach, Caillyne Hoelscher & Tessa Vaculin

**Ministers for Sunday, Dec. 10th**

**Rosary:** Raymond Johech

**Ushers:** REP

**Altar Servers :** REP

**Sanctuary Light: 12/4-10th** Henry Hubnik Sr. & Johnathan Hubnik by Family

**Prayer Chain**...Continue to pray for all our soldiers, our country and Vicki Collins & Delores Motl and all others in need of prayer. Pray for Vocations & more priests. Prayers are powerful and God answers prayers.

**MASSES THIS WEEK: MARAK**

**Today** -+Thomas Strmiska by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel

**Wed. 12/6 5:30 pm** Lynette Johech by Liz & Arvell Jungmann

**Fri. 12/8 Immaculate Conception—Holy**

**Day 6pm** Lawrence Vrazel, Jr by Albert Vrazel

**Sun. 12/10 9:15** + Martha Hertenberger by Cecilia Marak

**Stewardship:** Thank you for your generosity.

**Sun. Offering** 11/26 \$1,177.00

**MASSES THIS WEEK: CYCLONE**

**12/5** Tues. 7am + Lucy Mihatsch by Jimmy & Kay Halfmann

**12/7 Thurs.** 7am+ Marvin Wilde by Lyn & Jet Kleypas

**12/7 Thurs. Vigil 6:30 PM** + Larry Posvar by Jane & Danny Bruggman

**12/8** Fri. 7 am - +Randolph Green by Georgia Stermer

**12/9** Sat. Vigil Mass 5:30pm - +Lucy Mihatsch by Nancy & Dewayne Mesecke

**12/10 Sun.** +Lucy Mihatsch by Brian & Kim Wilkinson

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Wed. Dec. 6th— International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima** - at St. Lukes-Temple from 9am-8 pm Veneration 11am—8 pm. See Bulletin Board for more information.

**Sun. Dec. 9th St. Matthews— Rogers**—Our Lady of Guadeloupe Celebration - Mexican Plates & Menudo —11am till sold out. Rogers High School Cafeteria.

**Mon. Dec. 11th Parish Christmas Domino Social**— . Bring Pot Luck & Gift Exchange \$15.00 -Begins 6 pm.

**Parish Christmas Dinner - Sun., December 17th**—Sponsored by the KJZT #21-Marak. Fried Chicken and Sausage will be furnished. Side Dishes and Desserts would be appreciated. Santa Clause will stop by—bring the whole family. Thank you KJZT # 21.

**Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal will be on Sunday, Dec. 10th after Mass.** Please call Lisa Prcin 254-493-7328 or e-mail Lprcin@brc.tamus.edu if you are planning on participating for the Christmas Eve Mass.

## Calendar

### Monday

December 4  
Advent Weekday  
Is 2:1-5  
Mt 8:5-11

### Tuesday

December 5  
Advent Weekday  
Is 11:1-10  
Lk 10:21-24

### Wednesday

December 6  
Advent Weekday  
Is 25:6-10a  
Mt 15:29-37

### Thursday

December 7  
St. Ambrose, Bishop and  
Doctor of the Church  
Is 26:1-6  
Mt 7:21, 24-27

### Friday

December 8  
Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary  
Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

### Saturday

December 9  
Advent Weekday  
Is 30:19-21, 23-26  
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

### Sunday

December 10  
Second Sunday  
of Advent  
Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
2 Pt 3:8-14  
Mk 1:1-8

# Dear Padre,

## Why do we have Advent?

Advent as we know it today developed many centuries after Jesus' life on earth. Because of the number of persons being baptized in the early Church, a practice developed of having another time for baptism in addition to the Easter Vigil. Christmas was chosen as another baptismal season. Since Lent served as a time of preparation for the baptisms at the Easter Vigil, the weeks leading up to Christmas became a time of penance and preparation.

Combined with this penitential practice, of course, was the preparation for Christmas. The Sunday and weekday Scriptures during Advent recall the centuries of longing for the coming of the Messiah, the conception of John the Baptist, and the family history of Mary and Joseph. Today the writings of the prophet Isaiah are featured during Advent because they so eloquently speak of Israel's longing for salvation.

Among the special signs and symbols that the Church uses to recall and enter into these central parts of our Christian heritage are the Advent wreath, vespers, reconciliation services, the O Antiphons, Scripture readings, the Jesse tree, the giving tree, the Christmas tree, the crèche, gift-giving, and of course, Midnight Mass. Hopefully, these symbols of the season will remind you of your own birth in baptism and your own commitment to living a life filled with peace and love.



SHUTTERSTOCK/MALEO

Fr. Thomas Santa, CSSR,  
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### *A Word From Pope Francis*

*The Lord comes...into our life as a liberator; he comes to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery. It is he who shows us the path of faithfulness, of patience and of perseverance because, upon his return, our joy will be overflowing. Christmas is near,...[and] outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us.*

—Angelus, December 11, 2016

**Saint of the Week –December 06 – St Nicholas:** The absence of the “hard facts: of history is not necessarily as obstacle of Saint Nicholas. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

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