

Dear Padre,

Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●



This first page of the Gospel of Mark is from a fourteenth-century Armenian illuminated manuscript painting by Sargis Pitsak.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

| MONDAY         | TUESDAY        | WEDNESDAY      | THURSDAY                                     | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY              | SUNDAY                  |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| December 4     | December 5     | December 6     | December 7                                   | December 8                                       | December 9            | December 10             |
| Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church | Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Advent Weekday        | Second Sunday of Advent |
| Is 2:1–5       | Is 11:1–10     | Is 25:6–10a    | Is 26:1–6                                    | Gn 3:9–15, 20                                    | Is 30:19–21, 23–26    | Is 40:1–5, 9–11         |
| Mt 8:5–11      | Lk 10:21–24    | Mt 15:29–37    | Mt 7:21, 24–27                               | Eph 1:3–6, 11–12                                 | Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8 | 2 Pt 3:8–14             |
|                |                |                | Lk 1:26–38                                   |  |                       | Mk 1:1–8                |

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.

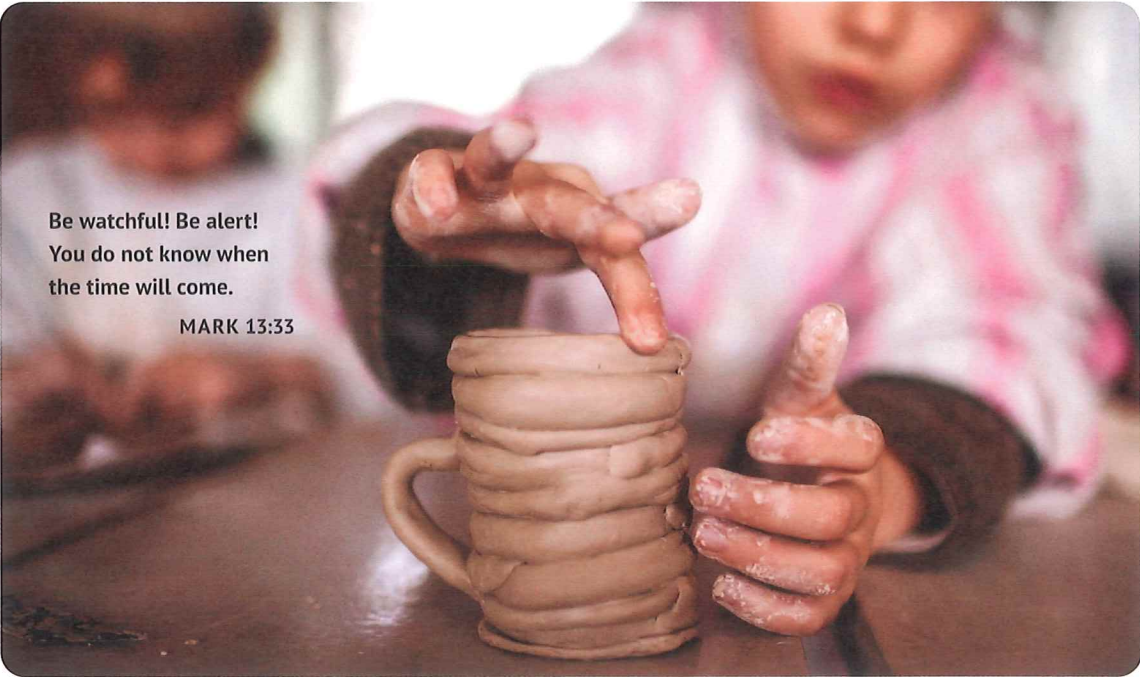
ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7 / 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 / Mark 13:33–37



How Has God Shaped You?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Sometimes it seems as if life is a laboratory of designed experiments on how to become human, all of them allotted ten-year blocks. Have you noticed how nine- and ten-year-olds can be easy to be around? Then about the time we've gotten being a kid down to a science, life begins to move us into adolescence. We want to be independent and responsible, but we don't yet have all the skills. We have sexual feelings, but we're expected not to act on them. About the time we reach adulthood and move into our twenties, it seems we can finally do what we want, but then we might drink too much, spend too much, drive too fast, and party too long. Once we begin to settle down around year thirty, we have to learn how to live with another person. One likes it warm, the other cool. One seeks to save, the other spends. One is a homebody, the other enjoys going out on the town. By the time we've gotten to our sixties and seventies, we may have figured out life, but by then we've used up most of our energy. What's going on? Faith suggests it's the hand of God shaping us into the sort of persons we're meant to be. "Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:7). Advent may be a time to figure out how God is acting in your life now and look back to see that God was shaping you all along. ●

Reflect

What did you learn in your last ten-year block of life?





Rectory & Parish Office  
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860  
Mailing Address: PO Box 983  
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405  
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com  
Website: saintanthonylakin.org



Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee 355-6388  
Lisa Gannett, DRE 355-6611  
Gwen Waechter, Parish C. Chair 272-1030  
Tressa Powers, Finance C. Chair 355-6206  
Altar S. President, Nanette Rice 355-7676  
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259  
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696  
& Nanette Rice 355-7676

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

### 1 SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12/2/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

**Servers:** Ryann & Brecken Bamberger, Rowen Simon

**Reader:** Gwen Waechter

**E.O.HC:** Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

12/3/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

**Servers:** Haley Berning, Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

**Reader:** Bob Woodrow

**E.O. HC:** Alvin Bergkamp, Bob Woodrow

### 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12/9/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

**Servers:** Jason Velasco, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

**Reader:** Karen Burden

**E.O.HC:** Rosemary & Tom Bachman

12/10/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

**Servers:** Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

**Reader:** Julie Kaps

**E.O. HC:** Mike & Cindy Broeckelman

## DECEMBER 3, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.” (PS 80)*

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

|                  |            |  |
|------------------|------------|--|
| Saturday, Dec. 2 | 4:00 p.m.  | Liz Lang Baier   |
| Sunday, Dec. 3   | 9:00 a.m.  | Charles & Mary Margaret Sahrufier                                    |
| Monday, Dec. 4   | 5:30 p.m.  | David Hoang  |
| Tuesday, Dec. 5  | 9: 30 a.m. | Beu Cameron<br>(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village ) |
| Thursday, Dec. 7 | 12:10 p.m. | Gary Sack  |
| Friday, Dec. 8   | 6:00 p.m.  | Liz Lang Baier   |
| Saturday, Dec. 9 | 4:00 p.m.  | People of our parishes   |
| Sunday, Dec. 10  | 9:00 a.m.  | Special Int. Alvin Bergkamp F.                                       |



My friends, once again we find ourselves on the threshold of another Church Year, and another Church season --- in this case, Advent.

In a certain sense, we're hitting the re-set button, having come full circle and are about to embark on the same journey once again --- this time with Mark as our guide. The fact that we repeat the same liturgical seasons over and over again points to the sobering truth that a life of faith is never a done deal, never "completed."

Rather, it's a continual journey, a continual process, a continual re-examining of our relationship with our loving God. We'll never get it exactly right, never fully reach our intended destination in this life.

Yet, we walk the journey anyway --- trusting that all God asks is our best effort, a sincere attempt to follow where he leads.

And yet, on this first Sunday of the Church Year we don't hear Jesus say, "Stand up! Start walking!" Instead we hear him say, "Be watchful! Be alert!"

Fr. Peter

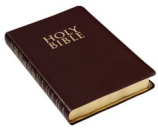
### COLLECTION for November 26, 2023

Envelopes: \$820; Loose: \$200; Online Giving: \$ 302.64

Total \$1,322.64 ; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under -438.53

### CHURCH PROJECT GOAL

\$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$37838.74. *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards*



## **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Mark 13:33-37)**

**When will he come back?** The above question was a popular one among Christians. The ones for whom Mark wrote his Gospel seem to have been persecuted, perhaps violently, because of their faith. These Christians must have wondered how much longer they had to endure their suffering before Christ came in glory. Mark can't give his community a specific time (v.32), but he can urge them in the words of Jesus to remain faithful no matter how long the wait.

**Until then...** Jesus tells a parable in which the master of the house entrusts his servants with particular tasks (v.34). The servants must attend to these tasks until their lord returns. When he does return, he will assess how well they met their obligations. They must, therefore, work diligently until then. The passage urges us to live as if Christ will come at any moment and ask for an account of how well we have met the demands of Christian discipleship.

**The long night** In Jesus' day traveling by night was dangerous. Given the absence of cars and streetlights, people on roads were easily attacked. This parable, however, suggests that the master could return during the night, which emphasizes how unexpected Christ's return will be and our need to be ready at all times. The Romans divided the night into four sections or "watches."

These time frames correspond to parts of Jesus' passion, which is about to begin.

- ☐ in the evening Jesus has his last supper with his disciples
- ☐ during the night Jesus is arrested
- ☐ when the cock crows Peter denies knowing Jesus
- ☐ in the morning Jesus is taken to Pilate Just before he is arrested, Jesus prays in Gethsemane, where his three closest followers are neither watchful nor alert .

(oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

## **UNDERSTANDING THE SECOND READING OF THE WEEK - (I Corinthians 1: 3-9)**

**Following the formula** Most letters of the New Testament era began with a standard greeting and then words of thanks. Paul's letters usually follow this structure. Paul uses the greeting and thanksgiving to begin addressing problems and other matters within a particular community.

**Prematurely proud** Many of the Christians in Corinth were proud of their intelligence and spiritual gifts (vv.5-7). Some of them were so proud, however, that they thought they had nothing more to learn and no more ways to grow in their relationship with Christ. As a result, they said and did things that distorted the gospel and divided the community. Later in his letter Paul insists that these Christians are a long way from spiritual maturity.

**A long way to go** By speaking about the end and the day of our Lord Jesus, Paul reminds the Corinthians that they must be continually strengthened and guided (v.8). They are a long way from being perfect in faith, hope, and love. When Christ comes again, he will bring them to spiritual perfection. Such perfection comes from God through fellowship with his Son, not through human power (v.9).

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE** If you would like to donate flowers in memory of A LOVED ONE FOR CHRISTMAS, please put your donation in envelope marked to whom you want them to go to, plus your name and put in with the regular collection or send it to our office.

**CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATION** We plan to decorate the church on December 14 at 4:00PM. Your help would be appreciated.

**COMING –YEAR - OFFERING ENVELOPES** Your Offering Envelopes for the coming year are available at the Church's Vestibule. Please pick up yours and thank you so very much for your generous and faithful contributions for supporting our Parish.

**2024 CALENDARS** are available at the church vestibule for you to pick up.

**PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION** Please make an extra effort to attend our parish reconciliation this Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. to reconcile with God, the Church, and with others in order to be ready ourselves to celebrate the Birthday of the Lord.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS**

- K of C Bierock Fundraiser—Sunday, December 3rd & K of C meeting 12/6 @ 7:30 pm.
- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Friday December 8 Mass @ 6:00pm.; Syracuse @ 7:00 a.m. (MT)
- Advent Penance Service—Sunday, December 10 at 6:30
- Our Lady of Guadalupe— Tuesday, December 12
- Parish Christmas Potluck—December 13 @ 6:30p.m.
- Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass— December 23 @ 4:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. (MT) in Syracuse (**only on Saturday & not on Sunday**)
- Christmas Decoration—Thursday, December 14 starting @ 4:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve. Mass—Sunday, December 24 @ 4:00 p.m.—St. Anthony's & 5:30 p.m. (MT)- St. Raphael's
- Christmas Day Mass—Monday, December 25 @ 9:00 a.m.—Christ the King Deerfield

## **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION DECEMBER 3**

***“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33***

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

***“¡Vigile! ¡Manténgase alerta! Usted no sabe cuándo llegará el momento.” - MARCOS 13:33***

Damos las cosas por sentado. En particular, damos el tiempo por sentado. Tenemos nuestras vidas demasiado ocupadas. Planificamos por adelantado nuestros días, semanas, meses y aún nuestros años. Recuerde, nuestro tiempo en la tierra es un regalo. Ninguno de nosotros sabe cuánto tiempo estaremos aquí. Empiece hoy y comience a darle gracias a Dios por todos y cada uno de nuestros días. Tómese un tiempo en silencio, todos los días, y escuche cómo Dios lo está llamando en este momento para ayudar a construir Su reino en la tierra.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK** What will I do this week to prepare for Christ's coming, knowing that it may happen at any time?

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (by Mother Teresa) Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters. Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed. Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as you love us. Renew in us your spirit. Lord, free us and make us one. Amen



## NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

### DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PART 6: SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### The Mass

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” Once we have finished the entrance hymn or antiphon at the beginning of Mass, there is a familiar gesture we do at every Mass and frequently with our prayers: we make the Sign of the Cross. Why? As Dr. Edward Sri writes, “The

Sign of the Cross is not simply a way to begin praying. It is itself a powerful prayer that is meant to pour out tremendous blessings on our lives. When we make the Sign of the Cross...we enter a sacred tradition that goes back to the early centuries of Christianity, when this ritual was understood to be a source of divine power and protection. In making this sign, we invoke God’s presence and invite him to bless us, assist us, and guard us from all harm. It is not surprising that the early Christians made the Sign of the Cross quite often, desiring to tap into the power that lay therein” (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 17).

Sri goes on to quote the early Christian writer Tertullian (A.D. 160-225), who said, “In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting on our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in lighting our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever employment occupies us, we mark our foreheads with the Sign of the Cross” (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p.17-18).

#### A Holy Gesture

Since we use the Sign of the Cross so frequently, it is important to recall what a meaning-packed gift it really is. The gesture itself points us to the Cross of Jesus—it reminds us of his saving sacrifice—the place where Jesus gave everything out of love for us to conquer sin and death. The words we say remind us that we have been brought into the life of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is important to notice that we pray “in the name” and not “names.” Praying in the singular “name” recalls that God is One God in Three Persons. In addition to reminding us of the Trinity and the Cross of Christ, the Sign of the Cross also reminds us of our Baptism, when we were brought into God’s family and given a share in the life of God: we are literally baptized “... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”! We are reminded that the Father loved us so much that he sent the Son to save us and that the Holy Spirit was sent to guide us on our way home to heaven. That’s a lot of meaning for a little action that only takes a couple of seconds!

When I think of the Sign of the Cross, one of my favorite meditations is imagining how it looks when Our Blessed Mother Mary makes it. I remember hearing a story about how St. Bernadette would sometimes comment to the other sisters that their Signs of the Cross needed more reverence. I was always struck by the thought that St. Bernadette saw Mother Mary make the Sign of the Cross as she followed along with the Rosary beads (during Our Lady’s appearance to St. Bernadette at Lourdes). It must have made a powerful impression on her! Although for now we might have to imagine this scene, we can review the classic steps in making the Sign of the Cross in the Roman Rite: using the right hand and touching the forehead (saying: “In the name of the Father”), the middle of the chest (saying: “and of the Son”), the left shoulder (saying: “and of the Holy”), and right shoulder (saying: “Spirit. Amen.”)

#### A Grace-Filled Gift

Like almost anything in our lives, frequent repetition of the Sign of the Cross can sometimes lessen our attention to what we are doing and what it means. However, as we noted, the Sign of the Cross is an incredibly powerful prayer and gesture full of meaning. Next time you are starting a prayer or at Mass, I invite you to pause for a brief moment and really make the Sign of the Cross a true prayer from your heart. Maybe imagine what it looked like when Mother Mary, St. Bernadette, or one of the saints made it. Consider moving your hand and saying the words more slowly. Think about the love Jesus has for you as you trace the shape of the cross. Thank God that you have been given a share in the life of the Trinity through Baptism. What a grace-filled gift the Sign of the Cross truly is!

#### For Reflection:

1. Reflect on St. Paul’s words to the Galatians: “But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal. 6:14). In what way is the Cross of Christ a reason to “boast”? Consider your current relationship to things of this world. What may need to be crucified in you so that God can reign more fully in your life? Bring this challenge to prayer the next time you make the Sign of the Cross.
2. How do you feel when you make the Sign of the Cross? Confident, foolish, something else? St. Paul explains that “[t]he message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:17) and that Jesus “endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). Call to mind the areas in your life where you feel foolish or powerless, and invoke the power of God’s name by making the Sign of the Cross.
3. Do you know or work with any children who do not yet know how to make the Sign of the Cross? Hand on the faith by showing someone else how (Fr. Luke Spannagel)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### A season of welcome

The color violet reminds us that a new season has begun: a time to prepare to welcome Christ in our midst for all days and in all persons. Coincidentally this year, Advent starts on the World Day for Persons with Disabilities. How welcoming is our church to the people with physical and mental challenges? Not just improving accessibility with an entrance ramp or elevator but providing accommodations for those with hearing, visual, and intellectual impairments, including for liturgies and sacramental preparation? Take a look around your own parish. Is it true that "all are welcome"?

## PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

### Una temporada de bienvenida

El color violeta nos recuerda que ha comenzado una nueva estación: un tiempo para prepararnos a darle la bienvenida a Cristo en medio de nosotros para todos los días y en todas las personas. Casualmente este año, el Adviento comienza en el Día Mundial de las Personas con Discapacidad. ¿Hasta qué punto es acogedora nuestra iglesia para las personas con dificultades físicas y mentales? No se trata sólo de mejorar la accesibilidad con una rampa de entrada o un ascensor, sino de ofrecer facilidades a las personas con deficiencias auditivas, visuales e intelectuales, incluso para las liturgias y la preparación sacramental. Echa un vistazo a tu propia parroquia. ¿Es cierto que "todos son bienvenidos"? (Preparetheword)