

**Opening prayer: PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,  
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse your power,  
and come to save us.  
Once again, O LORD of hosts,  
look down from heaven, and see;  
take care of this vine,  
and protect what your right hand has planted  
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.  
May your help be with the man of your right hand,  
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.  
Then we will no more withdraw from you;  
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.  
Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Commitment to Mission**

As children of One Heavenly Father,  
as brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ  
united as a family of faith by the Holy Spirit,  
we commit ourselves to the pastoral conversion of our parish.  
We gladly accept the work the Lord entrusts to us  
as laity and clergy working together in the vineyard.  
We resolve to live as faithful stewards of God's grace  
in service of the evangelizing mission of the Church.  
Charity and mercy will be the first response  
we offer to those we encounter on the Way.  
Fidelity to the Truth will light our path.  
All to the praise and glory of God  
with due honor to Our Blessed Lady of the Lake. Amen.

**Introductions**

Please state your name and your favorite thing about Advent.

**Video - FORMED - Opening the Word  
1st Sunday of Advent (Year B)**

<https://watch.formed.org/opening-the-word-1/season:2/videos/1st-sunday-of-advent-december-3-2017>

### **Lectio Divina Explanation**

Lectio divina is an ancient Catholic prayer method for reading and praying with the Bible. We will be using the format described in the Advent Lectio document.

### **Gospel Reading: MK 13:33-37**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places his servants 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 suddenly and find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

### **Lectio - Read the Gospel Aloud and Discuss**

What is the context of this reading? What is happening in the 13th Chapter of Mark? To whom exactly is Jesus speaking?

### **Meditatio - Read the Gospel again; silently answer the questions; then Discuss.**

What is God saying to me today in this passage? What word or passage stands out to me?

**Oratio - Read the Gospel silently; then follow the instructions below.**

What do I need to say to God? If you are struggling try using the ACTS form of prayer:

Adoration - Praise God's Wonderfulness

Confession - Tell Him where you have missed the mark

Thanksgiving - Show gratitude for all He has provided

Supplication - Ask for what you need from Him.

**Contemplatio - Read the Gospel silently again; then follow the instructions below**

Lord, what conversion of the mind, heart, and life are you asking of me? Listen for His answer.

**Actio - Discuss**

What can I do with this learned knowledge to bring forth God's Kingdom?

## **Final Reflection & Closing Prayer**

Second Reading 1 COR 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We have seen the Lord, and we want to bring others  
to Him who is the Bread of Eternal Life.

Come, O heavenly Light.

Enlighten our minds so that we may know  
your Holy Will for our parish.

Come Divine Advocate.

Bring to fulfillment the plan you have entrusted to us  
for bringing the good news of salvation  
to those who lack the light of faith.

Come, Divine Consolation.

Grant us the fullness of joy  
as we profess, celebrate, live and pray our faith in You.

Come, Giver of every Good Gift.

Teach us the way of stewardship,  
affirm us in our vocations,  
and strengthen our commitment to charity,  
that others may come to know, as we know,  
the mercy of God Our Father,  
and the Truth revealed in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.