



Year B – 1st Week of Advent: Advent, Come Lord Jesus

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **MK 13:33-37** - <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 12/3/2023, 11/29/2026, 12/2/2029

After the reading conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You ask us to be watchful and ready for Your coming. We open our hearts in eager anticipation to You tonight as the Advent season begins. Help us to slow down and prioritize You above all else in this busy season. We ask this through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What do you think/feel that God is telling you through this reading?

YouTube Video: What Makes Advent Different From Lent with Fr. Mark Mary (6:56)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEkhz7dy4jM>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Prayer is an important part of entering into Advent. What do you think about Fr. Mark Mary's suggestion on how to add more time into your life for prayer? If you don't have daily appointments, how else could you increase your prayer time?
3. Fr. Mark Mary says that Advent is a time of waiting and to look to Jesus' mother, Mary, as an example and that Lent is a time for following Jesus. What do you think he means by this?
4. What ways have you found that help you to slow down and prioritize God above the busyness?
5. Have you ever cried out to the Lord and asked for His help? Did it take a while for Him to answer or did you receive consolation quickly?
6. Fr. shares that "Advent is a time for those who are in crisis. Advent is a time for those who need and want, but who can't." Have you thought of Advent like this before? Do you know of anyone that is in need, but can't? What are some ideas for offering help to these people this year?
7. Do you do anything to celebrate the Advent season? Use an Advent wreath? Reach out the poor?

Session Challenges: (Choose one or both)

- Advent is a season to pray and help those in need of a savior. Invite one person to attend Christmas Mass with you or share what Christmas means to you with someone in need of a savior.
- Pray the rosary as Fr. Mark Mary suggests: on each Hail Mary bead say, "Come, Lord Jesus" for your specific intentions. Pray with hope and joyful expectation. If you struggle with finding the time for daily prayer, implement one of the suggestions discussed tonight.

Closing Prayer: Leaders (Start by letting the group know that you will play a song and after a brief pause, you'll invite them to share any intentions they may have.)

I invite you to close your eyes and silently pray for the Lord to come as the lyrics play. Click this link: "[Come, Lord Jesus, Come](#) (feat. et al.) by The Worship Initiative | Lyric Video by WordShip"

Thank you, Lord, for coming into this space tonight and for the gift of music and the ability to listen and hear. At this time I invite you to share any intentions you may have that are on your heart. After each intention, we can collectively say "Come, Lord Jesus." After intentions are shared say, "Mother Mary, during this season of Advent, we ask You to intercede on our behalf to Your son for all of the intentions shared tonight and those that remain silent on our hearts. Lord Jesus, we cry out to You to come into our hearts and walk with us in our struggles. Over the next several weeks, allow us to humbly share Your awe-inspiring salvation of joy and hope to those in need of a savior in their lives. Increase in us the virtue of joyful patience while we await Your birth. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7;** Sunday Reading 2: **1 COR 1:3-9**