



MATTHEW 24:37-44



Are you ready?

Advent is...
Hopeful Anticipation
Expectant Waiting
Joyful Preparation



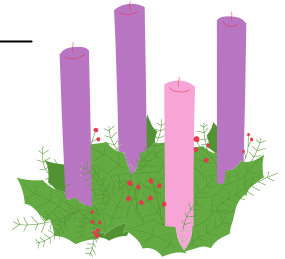
PICK ONE STATEMENT AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE!

- CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SHOULD GO UP STRAIGHT AFTER HALLOWEEN.
- CHRISTMAS MUSIC SHOULD NOT BE PLAYED UNTIL MID DECEMBER.
- CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SHOULD STAY UP UNTIL THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (OR LATER!)



DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY TRADITIONS AROUND DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS / PUTTING UP THE TREE / THE CRIB?

WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT?



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "THE TRUE MEANING OF ADVENT" (ASCENSION PRESENTS) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

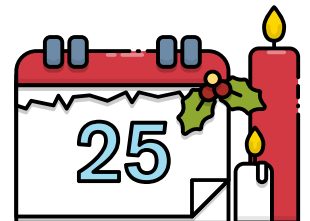


What is Fr Mike's response to people wanting to put up Christmas decorations early: what question should people ask themselves?

What two things do we prepare for during Advent according to this video?

What stark question does Fr Mike suggest we ask: what could we prepare for as if it could happen on December 25th this year?

How do you react to a question like that? Fr Mike explains that it's not a morbid question - do you agree?



ARE YOU READY?

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How did one of Fr Mike's students put this challenge into action? How easy would you find it to do something like that? What would hinder you? What would be the benefits?



Now Read - Matthew 24:37-44



In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus is talking about is a deep sense of being awake to God's presence in our lives. This is why the Church gives us the season of Advent: to be prepared to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and to prepare for Jesus' Second Coming.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT ADVENT LIKE THIS BEFORE?

WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE TO YOU TO REFLECT LIKE THIS IN THE COMING WEEKS?

MISSION!

If you were to take Fr Mike's advice, and decide to live this Advent season differently, what changes could you make? Did any of Fr Mike's suggestions resonate with your heart? Reflect in prayer, and ask God to guide you.

Choose one thing this week, a small or a big step - that's up to you! What can you do this week? (Only share what you are comfortable with sharing - and be honest).



PICK ONE SONG FROM THIS WEEK'S PLAYLIST TO LISTEN AND RESPOND TO. HOW DOES THIS SONG LINK TO THIS WEEK'S THEME? EXPLAIN WHY (BRIEFLY!)

- O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Pentatonix)
- Help from Heaven (Matt Redman)
- Prepare the Way (Charlie Hall)
- To those who wait (Bethany Dillon)
- Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (Meredith Andrews)
- I will wait (Mumford & Sons)

Chosen Song: _____

Link to theme: _____

PRAYER TIME!

Son of God, You are the light of the world. Shine your light on all our choices this day. Create in us the ability to let your light shine forth for others. We ask this in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. Ave Maria Press



CHECK OUT OUR ASCEND DAILY INSTAGRAM POSTS FOR IDEAS ON HOW TO CELEBRATE ADVENT THIS YEAR!

TO THE HEIGHTS FEEDBACK!

If you could ask Roisín and Michael any question about Advent or Holy Family Mission, what would you ask?