

Today is the First Sunday of Advent.

The Season of Advent is a time of joyful expectation and marks the beginning of the New Church Year.

In the Gospel, we hear our Lord say "Watch!"

Maybe a better way to think about that is to hear it as "Look out!" or "Watch out!" or if you're a golfer, "Fore!"

Put that way, it makes you stop whatever it is you're doing or thinking and pause.

Our lives are often busy; and we can get accustomed to the level of busyness - so much so that we miss the details. The idiom, "Stop and smell the roses," can convey the spirit of Advent as well.

In the first reading from Isaiah, we hear the prophet ... speaking on behalf of the people of Israel ... saying to God, "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down." Almost as if everything we take for reality were just a movie or TV set ... and God could tear a hole in it and step into our world.

And that is exactly what we are anticipating - the coming of God as a human being. The "incarnation" ... the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

But, "look out!" If you aren't paying attention you might just miss it.

I believe that God "breaks into" our lives in more ways and more often than we may notice. A close call while driving - just missing a deer or a dog or a shopping cart or another car. Or a favorite song that changes your mood when you turn on the radio or iPod - just what you needed at that moment to lift your spirits.

This week, let us ask for the grace to "watch out" and notice the little "God moments" as they appear in our daily lives. God is here - Jesus is here. We only need to notice - to watch - to look out for His presence in the many little miracles that occur throughout our life.