

NOVEMBER 30, 2014



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ISAIAH 63:16B–17, 19B; 64:2–7

PSALM 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3–9

MARK 13:33–37

## REFLECTION

Happy New Year! Or, more specifically, Happy New *Liturgical* Year! It's the beginning of a new year in the Church and it's also the first Sunday of the season of Advent. In Advent, the Church anticipates Jesus's coming at Christmas and his return at the end of time. Advent is about waiting and hope. What are you most looking forward to right now? Anything in particular you're hoping to get for Christmas? Are you hoping to get a job or your driver's license? What are you waiting for? The same way we look forward to a big event—a prom or graduation—this season is colored in shades of joy and yet there's some anxiety too. The readings warn us to be ready and stay awake. They talk of recognizing our sinfulness and our need for God to come and save us from ourselves.



### ADVENT

[www.youtube.com  
/watch?v=Wcrav  
EG2ATE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcravEG2ATE)

### ADVENT GANGNAM STYLE

[www.youtube.com  
/watch?v=vhBB  
5bwuzl4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhBB5bwuzl4)

## ACTION

Tie a purple string around your wrist for the season of Advent. Maybe you could even get some friends to do it with you. Let the string remind you every time you see it or feel it to stay awake and be ready to "meet Jesus." The reading from Isaiah expresses the hope that God might encounter us living the way he wants us to. "That you might meet us doing right" (Isaiah 63:4).

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Think of a time when you were "caught in the act," either of doing something bad or maybe of doing something good.
- When you think about your future (and *the* future) what gives you hope?