

Publication Date: November 25, 2025

Reflection Date: [November 30, 2025 - First Sunday of Advent](#)

Where God is Present

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”

The gospel reading for the [First Sunday of Advent](#) (Matthew 24:37-44), and the entirety of Advent, invites us to be forward-looking.

We are called to be awake, alert, and attentive, both to the upcoming birth of Christ and to His eventual second coming. Jesus reminds His disciples to be prepared for the Son of Man.

While calling us to be forward-looking, this gospel also invites us to be **present**. Yes, we do not know which day our Lord will come again, but we *do* know He is here currently.



Photo by Zac Durant on Unsplash

God gives us the immense gift of being fully alive and present in the Holy Eucharist. Everyday, across the entire world, we have access to our Savior in physical form. He offers Himself freely, allowing us the privilege of dwelling in His presence.

When we receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist, God's presence not only remains in His body and blood but dwells with **us** as well. In a special way, God enters into the poor and the marginalized.

True to God's brilliant design and creativity, He made each of us in His image; a glimmer of Him

shines through each of us. I often wonder if I have a similar eye color to Jesus, or maybe if He has a matching birthmark to one of my roommates. Maybe His laugh has the same cadence as *your* laugh.

I'm reminded of a quote I recently discovered from Saint Augustine of Hippo:

"Do not grieve or complain that you were born in a time when you can no longer see God in the flesh. He did not in fact take this privilege for you. As He says, 'whatever you have done to the least of my brothers, you did to me.'"

No, I do not know the day of God's second coming, but I know the Holy Spirit asks me to be truly present while I await that glorious day. How can I live that out? I can stand up for my oppressed sisters and brothers, especially since I know God is dwelling within them. We have an obligation to speak out for them, to speak out for God.

God is coming, yes, but he is also wildly present, right here and right now.

Claire Fisher

Advocacy Associate, Franciscan Action Network

Suggested Action: As we enter Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ we can take the opportunity to engage in direct forms of service, where we can see Christ present today. The holiday season is a perfect time to bind together our commitment to justice and service by serving those in need, such as working in a soup kitchen or distributing groceries so that more people and families can celebrate this season.

Suggested Petitions:

For gratitude, that we recognize the gift of the present, knowing the privilege of God dwelling amongst us in 2025, we pray to the Lord.

For awareness, that we recognize the face of God shining through all that we encounter, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Good and gracious God, though we do not know the day or the hour of Your return, we believe with all our hearts that You are already here among us. Open our eyes to recognize Your presence in the Eucharist, in Your Word, and in the people we meet each day. Strengthen our faith, keep our hearts watchful, and help us to live in hope and readiness. Remain with us always, Lord, and guide us in Your peace.

Amen.

Upcoming Webinar: The Green Amendments Movement



Webinar: The Green Amendments Movement Tuesday Dec. 2, 2025

Time: 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT

Sign up today: [here](#)

What if your right to breathe clean air or drink safe water were as sacred as your right to speak freely?

Green Amendments make this vision real, embedding environmental rights directly into state constitutions. Green Amendments ensure that no one, especially our most vulnerable, is left unprotected. As federal protections grow more fragile and communities face the escalating impacts of pollution, climate change, and environmental injustice, these **state-level constitutional rights** provide a lasting safeguard for

ourselves and future generations.

Join us for FAN's second webinar in this 3-part series, on Tuesday Dec. 2, 2025 at 7pm ET (6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT). We will discuss the advent and ongoing work of the Green Amendments Movement in the U.S. with **Maya K. van Rossum, founder of the movement.**

Support FAN for Giving Tuesday

As we prepare for **Giving Tuesday**, we invite you to [join the Franciscan Action Network](#) in building the foundation for a hopeful and transformative 2026. Your support today strengthens the everyday work that often goes unseen — forming new advocates, equipping Franciscan Justice Circles, and amplifying voices calling for compassion, peace, and systemic change. Your generosity this season ensures we can enter 2026 ready to respond boldly to the needs of our communities and the challenges of our time. Every gift matters and carries Franciscan values into action. **You can donate** [here](#). Thank you!



Upcoming Advent Prayer: Welcome the Children



You are invited to join FAN in an online **Advent prayer service on Tuesday, December 16 at 7pm ET**. As we draw near to the Feast of the Birth of the Christ Child, we will reflect upon the birth of Christ and join together to pray for the thousands of immigrant children impacted by our government's current policies and actions. Please join us as we pray to "Welcome the Children" on December 16. Register [here](#).

Christians for Ceasefire and Just Peace

The violations of the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire continue and humanitarian aid is still significantly lacking. According to [Al Jazeera](#), more than 300 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire began.



[Global Priest Petition](#): Priests are invited to sign the petition and all are invited to ask priests they may know to sign. More than 2100 priests have signed so far, including about 90 from the US.

Complicit Corporation Campaign: 45 Christian organizations have now endorsed this campaign to expose, boycott, and divest from Chevron and Palantir, which are enabling the ongoing Israeli killing of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Find out more details and [join the campaign here](#) as an organization, group, or individual. Dec. 7-13 is a [Christian week of action](#) focused on Chevron and Palantir as part of an Advent campaign.

[Contact the US Congress](#) to support the Block the Bombs act to ensure a permanent ceasefire and robust humanitarian aid.

Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Phoenix-area FJC** signed on to a letter of faith-based organizational supporters to show solidarity in protecting the sacred Indigenous site of Oak Flat (Chi'chil Bıldagoteel) in Arizona.

To protect Oak Flat, a bill will soon be introduced in Congress that seeks to protect it by repealing a previous law that authorized a land exchange for a copper mine.

In addition to attending prayer vigils at immigrant detention centers, members of the **Colorado FJC** are gathering to make holiday cards for people who are recent newcomers to the U.S. As part of an Indigenous Allies Group, one Circle member helped to organize a Three Sisters lunch with indigenous friends and allies. Some have participated in a statewide interfaith coalition to advocate for state-level legislation ensuring the right to receive visitors for those who are incarcerated.

Upcoming [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) (FJC) gatherings:

CT-RI FJC: Tues. Nov. 25 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Texas FJC: Tues. Nov. 25 at 7:15 pm CT / 6:15 pm MT via Zoom

Colorado FJC: Mon. Dec. 1 at 7:00 pm MT via Zoom

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tues. Dec. 2 at 12:00 pm ET via Zoom

Kansas FJC: Tues. Dec. 2 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

Ohio FJC: Wed. Dec. 3 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC: Thur. Dec. 4 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. Dec. 4 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. Dec. 6 at 10:00 am CT via Zoom

San Francisco Bay Area FJC: Mon. Dec. 8 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

To find out more about any of the [FJC](#) gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please sign up [HERE](#).