

First Sunday of Advent 2016

November 27—There is a story told about a group of Cardinals rushing into the Pope's private study saying to him, "Your Holiness, we just spotted Jesus and He is walking this way! What shall we do?" To which the Pope replies, without looking up, "Look busy!"

Good advice. And, it's the same advice that Our Blessed Lord gave to His listeners that day so long ago as they discussed the end of time, the apocalypse, the end of the world [Matthew 24:37-44]. One could say that it has been a subject of curious discussion since we started discussing anything at all. There are many, especially evangelical preachers, who focus their work and their preaching on this pending reality and warn those listening that the judgment is coming and the wrath of God is looming.

How soothing it is, especially in our hectic world, to hear the calm voice of the Divine Master who advises all who heard Him then and who hear Him now, that the only thing we need to do is **be ready, be prepared, be vigilant**, for we know not when the Lord is coming for us.

My friends, these Advent days are given to us for just that purpose, the perfect time for us to reflect on our preparations for His coming, both at

Christmas when we celebrate His birth, and when our lives end and we meet Him,
for as He reminds us: **“The Son of Man is coming when we least expect Him!”**

God love you.