

Be Watchful!
Be Alert!
Watch!

“Be patient” could be added to those words in today’s Gospel.
We seem to have lost our sense of being patient.

Our world demands instant gratification — I need it now! — I want it now! — I will have it now! — I will do whatever it takes. I will line up outside of the Store all night just to get it immediately. Whatever happened to the slow, leisurely process that was such a part of our lives?

Is there a place anymore where the slow, leisurely process is valued? It is interesting how this phenomenon appears to have also hijacked our religious experience.

We want the short version. We want it quick, and we want it now, and we want to get going to the next thing or event.

So, during this Advent Season, I want to pose to you again the question that I asked at Mass last weekend: Why do you come to Church?

I am not asking for canned or rehearsed answers. I invite you to go deeper! Why do you come to Church? Does your participation in Church reflect the reality of your answer? How?

A lot of people still appear at Church, but not all of those have a purpose for being there. What is your purpose in coming to Church?

The story is told of a mother who shakes her son awake on Sunday morning and tells him it’s time for Church. Ten minutes later she is back harassing him again, “It is time to get to ready for Church.” Eventually, the son says, “I am not going to Church today. It’s boring and the people there don’t like me. Why should I go?”

His mother replies, “I’ll give you two reasons: One — you are 47 years old! Two — you are the pastor.”

So.... why do you go to Mass?