

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
November 29, 2020**

A NEW YEAR



With this first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. It is another cycle of reflection on the mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ, preparing us to celebrate and live out once again his first coming, the proclamation of his message of life and salvation through words and works, the surrender of his life for us through his passion and death, and God the Father answer, by raising him from the dead, thus confirming the message proclaimed by the Son. In this liturgical

year, it will be the evangelist Saint Mark that will guide our reflection.

Another aspect very present at the beginning of the liturgical year and this time of Advent is the invitation to hope. The words of Jesus in the gospel this Sunday are very clear: we must be attentive and alert, because we do not know the day nor the hour. However, this invitation is not always easy to live out, due to the circumstances of life and everything around us. How can I live in a life of hope, when I can have everything I want, here and now? How do I remain vigilant when we are constantly being bombarded by information, images, requests? What does the word "vigilant" mean today?

For those of us in this Sunday's celebration, what does it mean to wait? What life situations and experiences help us today to express this dimension so fundamental to our faith and also to this time of Advent?

Attentively at your service in our Lord,

Father John Carlos