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**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 2-3, 2017**

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## Living Catholic in the 808: Thoughts about Advent

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It is common nowadays to be on a lookout for sales discounts. It is as if our 'personal antenna' is attuned to the airwaves, picking up 'signals' where we can get the latest product deals. We will grab any opportunity to buy at a discount!!

The Gospel reading for this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent also speaks of being watchful. In this parable, the gatekeeper is the focus of attention. A gatekeeper or porter was responsible to guard the entrance to his master's house. Entrusted with his master's goods, this gatekeeper literally did "not know when" his "master" would return. However, whenever the master returned, the gatekeeper was (hopefully!) ready to admit him to a well-managed house. The gatekeeper had to be on the alert, to be watchful.

Today, this month, something much more valuable than a sales discount is before our very eyes. Someone much greater is (has always been!) sending us signals. Signals of His presence. What do we need to do to catch these signals? Jesus teaches us that we all need to be on the alert. If we do not pay attention, we will miss the sale. But, more importantly if we do not pay attention, we will miss out of God's very self coming to you.

How prepared are we to receive Jesus?