

December 5

First Friday of Advent

*"On that day,
the deaf shall hear."*

ISAIAH 29:17–24 ♦ MATTHEW 9:27–31

Our old station wagon had a radio with a mind of its own; it would play and then inexplicably stop. We had to pound on the dashboard in order to get it working again. Most of the time it was just a nuisance. However, our family loves baseball and sometimes when we were listening to a game, we would hear “the windup and the pitch...” then nothing. Frustrated, we would hit the area near the radio and hope that we would be able to find out what happened when the ball reached the batter. We’ve all probably experienced times in life when we’ve been frustrated by our inability to hear something that mattered. Sometimes during a conversation, my kids have said, “Mom, you’re not listening!” And they’re right. Sometimes I am distracted by other topics. At other times I am already thinking of my response instead of just keeping my mind and heart open. “We don’t need you to solve our problems,” they tell me. “Just let us tell you what we’re thinking.” Little by little they are healing me of my own kind of deafness.

This Advent, try to focus on really hearing others by listening to them, especially your children.

Activity

Our family loves to play a game that is a form of charades. We create the topics ourselves and then ask each other to act out a word, phrase, or person. We have fewer rules than charades, but still have loads of fun. It is a great way to communicate with one another in a different way.

Prayer

Dear Lord, much of Advent involves our senses. Scripture talks of the blind seeing and the deaf hearing. It is a season filled with sights, smells, and sounds. Help us to refine our hearing so that we can truly listen to those we love and really hear what matters. Amen.