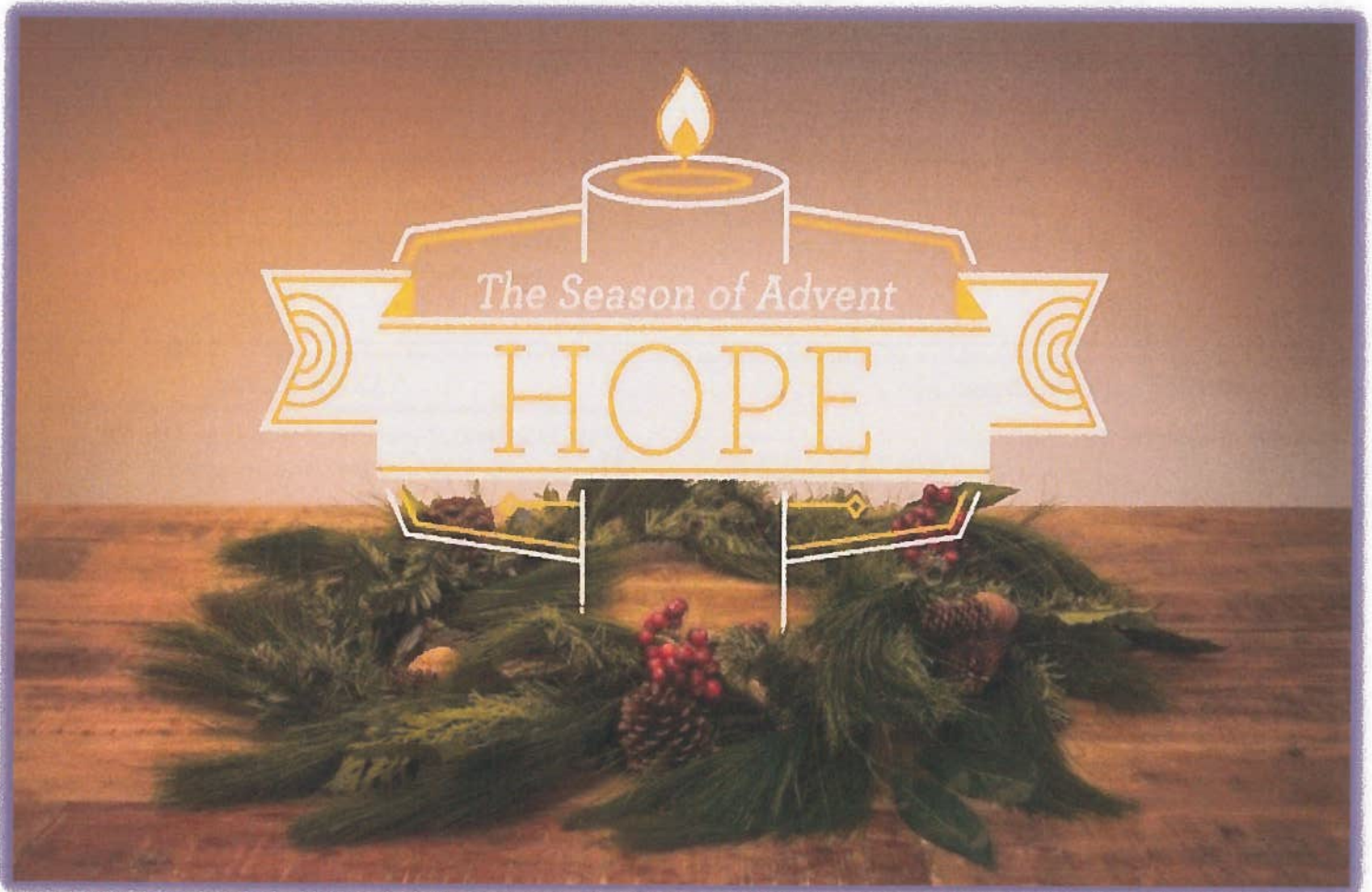


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 26-27, 2022**



**Weekend Masses:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

**Confessions:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

**Church Mailing Address:**

**207 E. 5th Street**

**Herscher, IL 60941**

**Phone: 815-426-2550**

**Quotable:** "It is Advent again. We call this time Advent because it reminds us what comes from God for the creation of his Kingdom on Earth.

—C. F. Blumhardt

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 3-4, 2022**

<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b> Saturday, December 3 5:00 pm	<b>Sacred Heart</b> Sunday, December 4 7:30 am	<b>St. James</b> Sunday, December 4 9:00 am	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b> Sunday, December 4 10:30 am
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Schultz Gary Nelson Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiller	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Dallas Ferris Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke Dave Ladehoff	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Darren Lovell Kim Smicker
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Emling	Terri Weakley	Carrie Abrassart	Steve Jacob
<b>Servers</b>				Bella Eich
<b>Greeters</b>	Colleen Schultz		<b>Greeter</b> – Karen Miller <b>R. Leader</b> – Peerboltes	Kim Smicker Mary McDonald

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, November 28 (SMM)**

**8:00 am** +Lloyd Billadeau & Heidi McDaniel (Mariann Lane)

**Tuesday, November 29 (SH)**

**8:00 am** +Leland Denault (Pam Matern)

**Wednesday, November 30 (SJ)**

**8:00 am** Intention of Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara)

**Friday, December 2 First Friday Mass & Adoration at SH 8 :00**

**am** +Vicki Seliga (Shirley St. Germaine)

**Saturday, December 3 (SMM)**

**5:00 pm** +Sterling Bouchard (Dennis/SueAnn O'Connor)  
+ Bill Fritz (Jerome Schneider)

**Sunday, December 4**

**7:30 am (SH)** +Bob Boudreau (Tom/Melanie Boudreau)  
+ Leland Denault (SH CCW)

**9:00 am (SJ)** +Jared Devine (Terry/Lenny Devine)  
+Jeffrey Cooley (MaryAnne Cooley)

**10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family**

**A Look Ahead**

Monday, Nov. 28—Knights of Columbus 7pm SJ

Tuesday, Nov. 29—SMM CCW meeting 7pm

Thursday, Dec. 1—K of C Blood Drive 3pm—7pm SJ

Friday, Dec. 2—First Friday Adoration SH

Tuesday, Dec. 7—Holy Day Vigil Mass 7pm SH

Wednesday, Dec. 8—Holy Day Mass 8 m SJ 7pm SMM

Dec. 10/11—2nd Collection for Retired Religious

Sunday, Dec. 18—Christmas Pageant/Fundraiser at SJ

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

**Religious Education** –

St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

St. James – Carolyn Levyclevystjames@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line**– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:jdstreefarms@aol.com)

St. James— Mary Offerman–602-670-8888 (call or text)

**Question of the week:**

How can I walk in the Lord's paths in my own community and with my own family?

## Collections Week of Nov. 19-20, 2022

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,208      Human Dev.—\$410  
St. James—\$1,128              Human Dev.—\$85  
Sacred Heart—\$1,308        Human Dev.—\$410  
Thank you for your generosity!

### A Stewardship Moment      First Sunday of Advent Weekend of November 26-27, 2022

On this first Sunday of Advent Jesus urges his disciples to stay awake and prepare themselves for the Lord's coming. Good stewards prepare themselves and await Christ's judgment in joyous expectation. This attitude requires genuine spiritual maturity, of course; the kind that is cultivated by prayer, participation in the sacraments, loving attention to family and one's communion of faith, and love for one's neighbor. Are we prepared for the Lord's second coming? Are we ready to receive Christ? Are we ready to look joyously for Christ's judgment?



Knights of Columbus Blood Drive  
Thursday, December 1 3pm—7 pm  
at St. James Parish Hall  
For appointments call or text  
Joe Petersen 815-861-9634  
Appointments preferred

Begin this holiday season with a great gift  
- the gift of life!

### Gospel Shorts      Build It and He Will Come

Most of us have had the experience on more than one occasion of missing out on an opportunity because we were not aware of it in time. We also may have gotten ourselves into trouble because we were not prepared for the unexpected. In Matthew 24: 37-44, Jesus points us toward the most important event that will happen to anyone at anytime — the coming of God into our lives. Although He speaks of his final coming, the best way of being ready for God is to practice an awareness of his presence in the many other ways he comes into our lives from day to day. Becoming aware of the shallowness of our distractions and building an aware and open heart are two ways of being ready.

The Christmas Pageant, Breakfast, and Basket Raffles are returning to St. James on Sunday, December 18 after the 9:00 am Mass.



If you are interested in donating a basket for the raffle or cash to purchase items for baskets, please text Terri at 815-685-0931 or Tanhya at 815-530-4406.

### Parish News:

#### St. Margaret Mary—

- SMM CCW Joy in January Sat. Jan 7, 2023. Luncheon will be at the Kankakee County Club Sign up in back of church by Dec 10 CCW will be paying half of the cost, please make a check to SMM CCW.
- Our CCW meeting for Nov. will be held on Nov. 29 due to the Mission. We will be serving soup and chili that night.

#### St. James—

- St. James CCW - Joy in January is Saturday, January 7 at the Kankakee Country Club. Cost is \$35 and will be split by our CCW and the participant. Please sign up on the bulletin board by December 5th. Payments may be given to Mary Peerbolte or Jen Hansen.
- Change of plans—Our winter wear display is up and ready to go, so feel free to donate whenever you would like. Last day to donate is Dec. 11. Please consider a donation to help those in need during our chilly Illinois winters.

#### Sacred Heart—

- There will be a special collection on Sunday, December 18 that will once again replace the income we have missed out on from not having our stag/stagette. There are envelopes in the back of the church. This additional income is very beneficial to the running of our parish. From the money collected last year, we have been able to install a new furnace in the parish hall., have plans for an air conditioner to be installed in the spring and for restroom improvements.
- The Sacred Heart CCW Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Herscher Restaurant at 6:00 pm. There is a signup sheet in the entrance of the church.
- Joy in January will be held at the Kankakee Country Club on January 7, 2023. Reservation deadline is December 10. If you wish to attend, please contact your CCW president to RSVP.

#### All Parishes:

- Adult Education Class will meet on Nov. 28 at Sacred Heart.

### Reflection

#### Advent—Week 1—Prepare the Way of the Lord

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope but believe that god is stronger than evils. God wants us to work for good in this world.





**Saint of the week: St. Virgilius of Salzburg (Nov. 27)** was a Benedictine monk who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 743 and on the way home he stopped in Bavaria – and stayed. He worked with Saint Rupert of Salzburg. Later he became the abbot of Saint Peter's monastery in Salzburg, Austria. One of his monks was Saint Modestus. He became the Bishop of Salzburg in 765, ordained by Duke Odilo. Saint Boniface twice accused him of heresy because of his scientific ideas (including a round earth), but this reflected some friction between the style and people of Roman and Celtic origins, and Virgilius was always cleared of the charges. He rebuilt the cathedral of Salzburg. Virgilius sent missionary priests to Carinthia, Austria.

**Obscure Saint of the week: St. Barlaam (Nov. 27)** was a convert to Christianity in northern India. Barlaam lived as a hermit. He brought Saint Josaphat to the faith, and then returned to his life as a cave hermit.



### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"The Arrival of the Son of Man will take place in times like Noah's. Before the great flood everyone was carrying on as usual, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ark. They knew nothing—until the flood hit and swept everything away.

"The Son of Man's Arrival will be like that: Two men will be working in the field—one will be taken, one left behind; two women will be grinding at the mill—one will be taken, one left behind. So stay awake, alert. You have no idea what day your Master will show up. But you do know this: You know that if the homeowner had known what time of night the burglar would arrive, he would have been there with his dogs to prevent the break-in. Be vigilant just like that. You have no idea when the Son of Man is going to show up" (from Matthew 24).

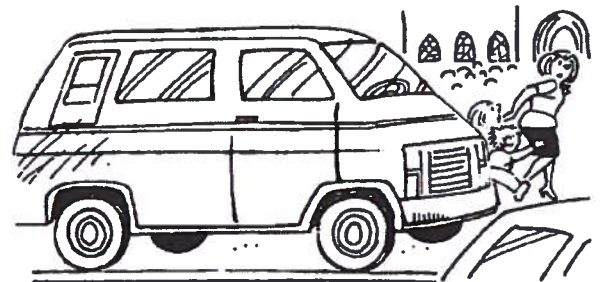
### Questions Catholics Ask

#### Can I have a job if I join a religious community?

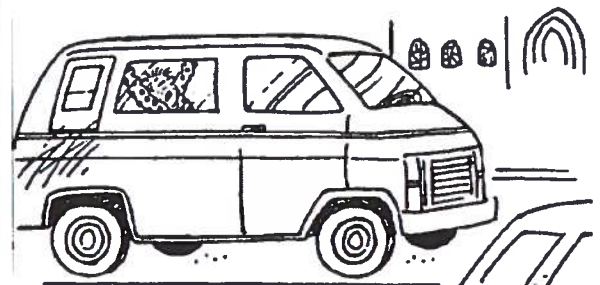
When you join a religious order, you make a life commitment to become part of a community. That means that the mission and life of the community become your primary way of living for and with God. What you actually do (your job, or ministry, or career) is "filtered" through this life commitment, just as when you marry, your significant decisions (and even insignificant ones!) are considered with your spouse and in light of your relationship.

So when thinking about what you might do as a religious priest, sister, nun, or brother, you must take into consideration not only your own gifts, talents, and passion but also what is good for your community. You need input from other members of the community to get a sense of the common good and how a job possibility or career path might further the community's mission. In doing this kind of discernment (both personal and communal) you are also tending to what is good for you, too.

That's the long way of saying that if you are looking into an active community, then yes, you can have a job or career. If you are looking into a contemplative community, then your primary ministry is going to be prayer.



"HURRY, KIDS! DON'T WORRY ABOUT DADDY—HE'LL CATCH UP..."





**December 2022**

Dear Friends,

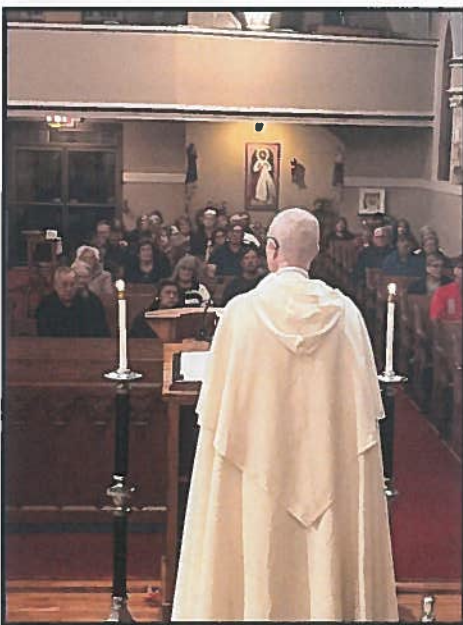
Pope Francis often highlights the value of older adults and the role they play in conveying the faith from one generation to the next. In his message this year for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, he noted, "A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance."

As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection on the weekend of December 10-11 — an appeal that benefits some 25,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests in the United States — I am reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows.

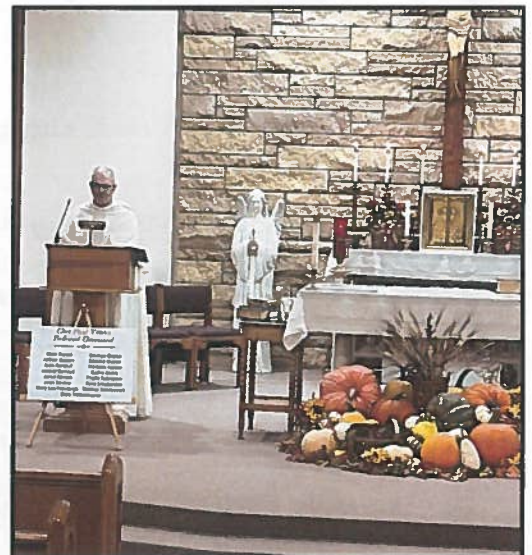
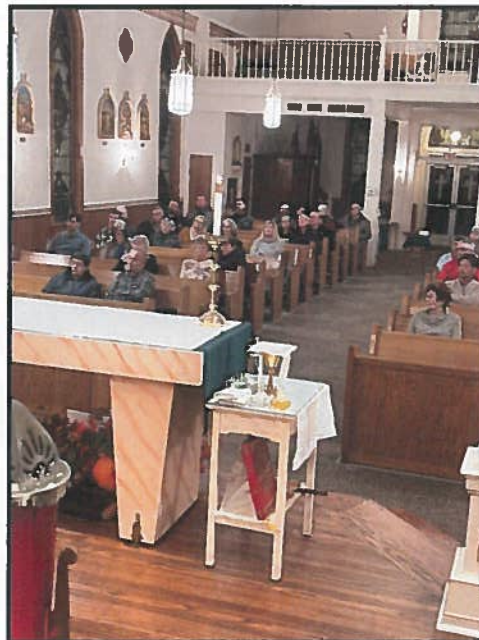
Instead, the prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations by embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Please support the retirement needs of our senior religious. And please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Paz y bien,  
**Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks**  
Bishop of Joliet



**Tri Parish Mission—2022**





## A New Take on an Advent Tradition

Do you find that as Christmas gets closer, it gets harder to concentrate on the reason for the season?

Does the bustle of gift shopping, picking out a tree, and decorating your home distract you from God's greatest Gift to mankind—Jesus?

You may have adopted the Jesse Tree tradition as a way to remind both yourself and your little ones of the true meaning of the Christmas feast. This beloved Advent tradition involves hanging ornaments day-by-day on a little "Jesse" tree, with each decoration symbolizing a biblical event in salvation history.

If your family likes decorating a Jesse Tree, you'll love the Salvation History Advent Blocks—a fun and engaging take on the Jesse Tree tradition! **The Salvation History Advent Blocks**

These Advent Blocks are a hardy, beechwood set of 27 blocks, complete with their own strong wood box for storing and organizing. 25 blocks are numbered from the first of December all the way up to Christmas day, each sided with an illustration of a Bible story. The remaining two feature a Star of Bethlehem and a globe picture. A ribboned book (*The King is Coming!*) offers daily Bible stories and colorful pictures.

Every day, move the Star block to the numbered block of the day and read the corresponding story in the book. The block's illustration sets the theme for the day, and helps your little ones (and you!) anticipate the coming of the King. Just as the Magi did on their long journey, you and your family can follow the Star of Bethlehem to greet the long-expected King.

Make the Advent Blocks a tradition your family will love! The perfect gift for your children, grandchildren, godchildren, or the whole family. And did we mention this set is **on sale**? Get yours today at The Catholic Company.

Read and Understand the Bible  
with *The Bible in a Year* Podcast  
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

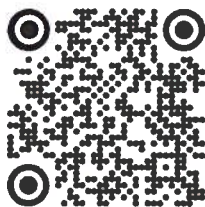
"As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together."  
—Ignacio G.

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By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

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- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

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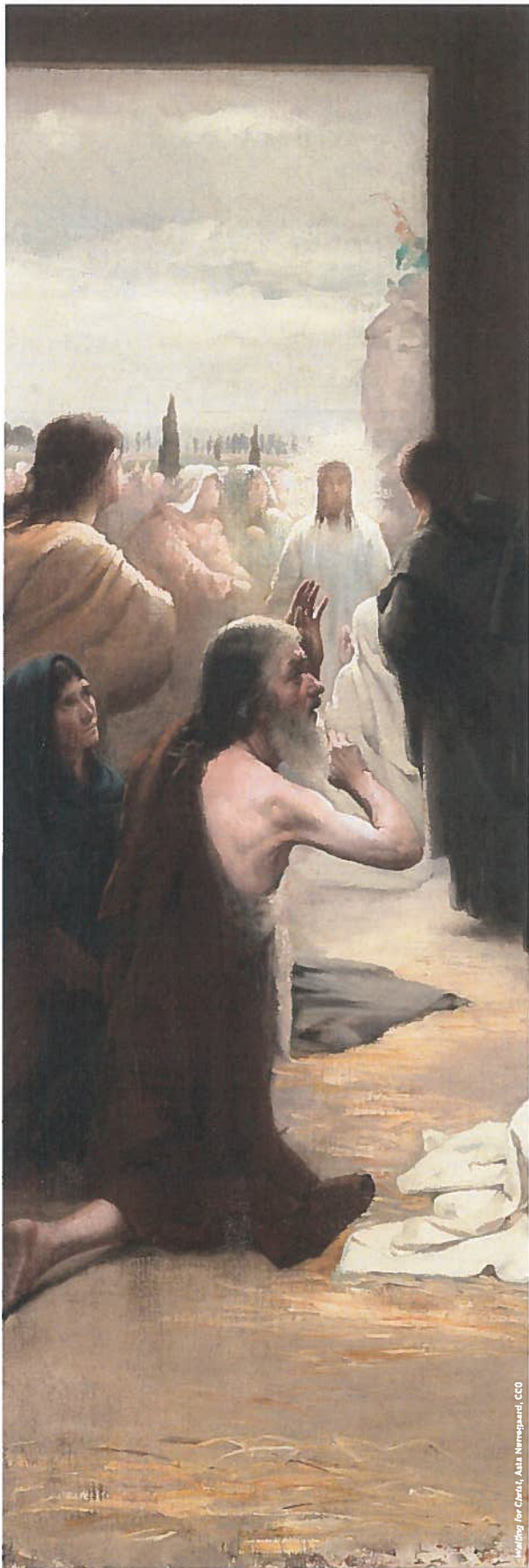
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for the  
LORD'S  
coming



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November 27, 2022

## First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Don't get me wrong. I love vacations and weekends away. But the night and day before? It's always a whirlwind of laundry, packing, and shopping for groceries and essential car snacks. I knew we were going away. I could have gotten my act together earlier. Next trip, I tell myself. Then the cycle repeats itself. Advent can be that way. This year's going to be the year! No rushing around, no crazy last-minute shopping, no stress: I'm going to study the daily readings, read that Advent devotional, settle into the season of waiting. Today's readings speak not only to procrastinators like me but also to the planners: Wherever we are on that continuum, Advent gives us an opportunity to ready our souls for Jesus' coming. It's less about what we do when than about preparing our hearts. Through prayer, study and the liturgies of this season, we can ask God to help us clean house within and prepare for Jesus' coming.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today is not only the first Sunday of Advent, but the first day of the liturgical year. Today's readings encourage us to prepare for Christ's coming. I love St. Paul's imagery: "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us ... put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Just as we make resolutions for the new calendar year, Advent affords us an opportunity to start anew. However, the gift of our faith reminds us that we are not alone in this! We can seek the help of the Holy Spirit through prayer and turn to the accountability partners who sit in the pews next to us at Sunday Mass. We, in turn, can be a light to others through our words, attitudes, and actions. As we light our houses and light our Christmas trees this year, we can remember to put on the armor of light ourselves as we begin this holy season.

**ACTION** Even with the best of intentions, the holiday season can become busy. As you go about errands or prepare your home, make an effort to listen to Advent hymns or reflections.

**Sunday, Nov 27, 2022**

**The most wonderful time, indeed**

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" as some popular lyrics go, and a lot of us agree. Andy Williams made the tune famous, but composers Eddie Pola and George Wyle wrote it. Ironically, Pola and Wyle were Jewish. Yet they assisted Williams in earning the title "Mr. Christmas" with their composition. The song celebrates holiday parties, caroling, mistletoe, good cheer, and loved ones near. But for believers, the season beginning today is really about anticipation and Incarnation, light illuminating the darkness, and God coming near. We know what time it is. Make this Advent a genuine celebration of hope.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44 (1). *"You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep."*

**Monday, Nov 28, 2022**

**Time to get ready!**

With the Thanksgiving holiday weekend wrapped up, Catholics yesterday began the Advent journey to Christmas. The word *advent* comes from Latin for "to come." All the days from now until the celebration of the birth of Jesus are preparation for his coming. Preparation in this case means remembering to be ready with a spirit of both penance and joy. Did you set out an Advent wreath on your dinner table yesterday? For many, it's the first of many Christmas decorations to come out—with festooned trees not far behind. The wreath is more than just a pretty adornment but also a daily reminder to pray as you count down each week with a new candle. Start the season out right by blessing your wreath with a prayer.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."*

**Tuesday, Nov 29, 2022**

**Listen with the ear of a child**

"Advent is not a time to declare, but to listen, to listen to whatever God may want to tell us through the singing of the stars, the quickening of a baby, the gallantry of a dying man," wrote Christian writer Madeleine L'Engle, born this day in 1918. L'Engle is especially known for her children's books, including *A Wrinkle in Time*, which won the 1963 Newberry Medal. This Advent, consider what it might be like to imitate the Christ Child instead of the adult Jesus. As *A Wrinkle in Time* tells us: "To love is to be vulnerable; and it is only in vulnerability and risk—not safety and security—that we overcome darkness."

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."*

**Wednesday, Nov 30, 2022**

**Be first to follow the Lord**

It's no coincidence that Saint Andrew the Apostle is linked to Advent (which traditionally begins on the Sunday closest to his feast day). In Eastern Christianity he is known as *protokletos*, "first called," because it was Andrew, who had been a disciple of John the Baptist, who persuaded his brother Simon (whom we know as Peter) to follow Jesus with his words, "We have found the

Messiah!" Andrew also has a devotion linked to Advent, known as the Saint Andrew Novena. Try it out and see if it supports and deepens your living out your own call.

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). *"At once they left their nets and followed him."*

**Thursday, Dec 01, 2022**

**Build on higher ground**

Anyone who has followed the news over the past year has seen more images than ever of people coping with floods. Families waiting on rooftops, people stuffed in boats, neighbors wading through murky water. Jesus constantly used images to make his point, including the image of discipleship as a solid house that stands firm during storms and floods. "Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies," Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said. Are you building a strong, flood-proof house in the small things you do each day?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178).

*"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."*

**Friday, Dec 02, 2022**

**Walk with each other**

Today, the church remembers martyrs Jean Donovan, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel, and Ita Ford, brutally murdered for standing with the poor in war-torn El Salvador in 1980. Their witness still speaks profoundly to us today as we encounter our own wars, violence, and suffering, especially among the most vulnerable. And still, we struggle to know what to do. Let us take courage as we ponder the questions posed by Ita Ford in 1977: "Am I willing to suffer with the people here, the suffering of the powerless? Can I say to my neighbors, 'I have no solution to this situation. I don't know the answers, but I will walk with you, search with you, be with you?'"

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). *"Let it be done for you according to your faith."*

**Saturday, Dec 03, 2022**

**Missionizing begins at home**

Many of the practices of the great "missionizing projects" of centuries past are seen as problematic in our age, with its greater sensibility of the rights of indigenous peoples to worship freely as they wish. So, while the legacy of one of the patrons of foreign missions, Saint Francis Xavier, is a mixed one, it is significant to note that he always provided for ongoing pastoral care of the communities he missionized and also advocated for an educated native clergy (rather than foreign-born leadership). None of us acts with perfect justice, but each of us finds oneself living in a unique historical moment, called upon to help church and society live up to the best and most noble qualities of our tradition.

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, JESUIT PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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