



First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019

"You . . . must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come."

— Matthew 24:44



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 — 10:1

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

ADVENT

Let's approach Christmas with an
expectant hush, rather than a last-
minute rush.

—Anonymous

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent;
World AIDS Awareness Day

Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier

Wednesday: St. John Damascene

Friday: St. Nicholas; First Friday

Saturday: St. Ambrose; First Saturday;
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our
future state. Our souls will continue for ever what
we make them in this world.

—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

We would like to start a Saturday Work Party here at St. Joseph.

Things come up during the month to be done around the grounds and buildings
here and a few volunteers to work a few hours on a Saturday morning will make it
easy for all. If you can help us out, please sign up at the table in the back of the
church.

The Parish Club will again sponsor a toy/clothing/cash collection for the kids
serviced by the HELP AGENCY OF THE FOREST. Gifts for children of any
age are appreciated but, the most underserved are kids between the ages of
14 & 16. There is a box at the back of church. We need to deliver everything
the week of December 9th. Thank you for your continued participation in this
worthy cause.



Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today we begin our yearly pilgrimage through the events of our history of salvation, starting with the preparation for the birthday celebration of Jesus and ending with the reflection on His glorious *Second Coming* as judge at the end of the world. We are entering the Advent Season. Advent means coming. We are invited to meditate on Jesus' first coming in history as a baby in Bethlehem, His daily coming into our lives in mystery through the sacraments, through the Bible and through the worshipping community, and finally, his *Second Coming* at the end of the world to reward the just and to punish the wicked. We see the traditional signs of Advent in our Church: the beautiful violet altar frontal, banners, vestments, and the Advent wreath. These signs remind us that we have to prepare for the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives, enabling Him to radiate his love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness around us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns us of the urgency of vigilant preparation on our part that we may meet him as the judge, both at the end of our lives on earth, and on the day of the Last Judgment when he comes in his glory. Jesus reminds us of how the unrepentant, ill-prepared, and evil people were destroyed by the flood in the time of Noah. He also reminds us how a thief would break in and plunder the precious belongings of an ill-prepared house owner. Using the additional examples of the ancient way of arresting and punishing a culprit without notice and of forceful recruitment to military service by ancient rulers, Jesus repeats His warning to us to be vigilant and well-prepared all the time, doing the will of God by loving others.

Our Life Message: We need to be alert and watchful while spiritually preparing for Christmas by offering our daily work to God for His glory, by practicing more self-control in resisting our evil habits and inclinations, by seeking reconciliation daily with God and our fellow-humans, and by asking God's pardon and forgiveness and extending our unconditional forgiveness to those who have hurt us. Let us begin each day by praying for the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to prepare ourselves for Jesus' rebirth in our hearts and lives.

Fr. Justin OCD.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Occasionally, someone raises a surprised complaint that while Christmas arrives on Santa's sleigh at the Macy's parade on Thanksgiving Day, the Church doesn't catch on too fast. They may even say that Advent is a new fangled idea. Not so. To trace its beginnings, we have to go back to the fourth or fifth century in France (then Gaul), when Epiphany was the favored day, next to Easter, for baptism. The old pagan structures of Rome were collapsing then, and many people sought to be baptized. Since adults always prepared for baptism by fasting, folks counted back a few weeks for a kind of retreat. Before too long, bishops were advising everyone to attend church frequently beginning on December 17. Soon, artists were imagining ways of expressing the Advent mystery, and in Italy this gave rise to beautiful mosaics of empty thrones awaiting the arrival of the Lord of all creation.

Advent as we know it develops on two separate tracks: the first having to do with our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Christmas feast, and the second having to do with the way this is organized and expressed in the liturgical readings and prayers every day of the season.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

We are in need of non-perishable food item so that we are able to provide food baskets to families in need during the Christmas /Easter seasons. What ever you can donate will be much appreciated.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Nov. 30th 4pm: Repose of the souls of Cliff & Florence Sheer

Sunday Dec. 1st 9am: Intentions of Pamela Fitzkee

Tuesday Dec. 3rd 9:30am Our Mission Family

Wednesday Dec. 4th 9:30am Our Mission Family

Saturday Dec. 7th 4pm: Intention of all choir members past & present

Sunday Dec. 8th 9am: Intention of Carton & Seagrave families



Please remember to use your envelopes

Thank you for your continued support

Prayer Requests

Averi Antich
Blaine
Marvin Bordetsky
Dawn Brennan
Janice Cahill
Danny Canzolino
Mary Canzolino
Catherine Coleman
Diane DaSilva
Eric Day
Thelma Einboden
Ruth Faulkner
Lorraine Fitzkee
Pamela Fitzkee
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Dawn Fraher
Gene Loosemore
Mary Sutton
Samantha Houldson
Pamela Mickiewicz
Mary Porter
Patsy Beam
Ruvia Doyle
Petra Herb
Peggy Dowd

Gail Garrett
Martha Gartland
Lisa Gibson
Ben Hall
Maggie Hall
Lawrence Harris
Edward Hickey
Florence Humble
Raymond Jaskiewicz
Chris Keller
Jeff Keller
Rodney Keller
Jennifer Kesse
Caleb Knaggs
Helen Kocijan
Joan Langlie
Laquittia Linquist
Adam Linquist
Morris Lunn
Jim Mansfield
Bob Benjamin
Haley Falconbury
Roger Soucey
Christopher Cochran
Diane Lemon

Rick Muhlig
Joan Nehiley
Carolina Pape
Nancy Payne
Madeline Pynn
Marie Sample
Concetta Santangelo
Woody Salisbury
Dennis Soucey
Kitty Thompson
The Homebound
Greg Trace
Michael Vilt
Adele Ward
Margaret Wimberly-
Charles Young
Adele Fournier
Carolyn Ashe
Jackie Nezille
Chris Jones
Shaunee March
Charles Dougherty
Francis Carrizzo
Chris Ulrich