

Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday:

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,
18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
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 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

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

Friday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday:

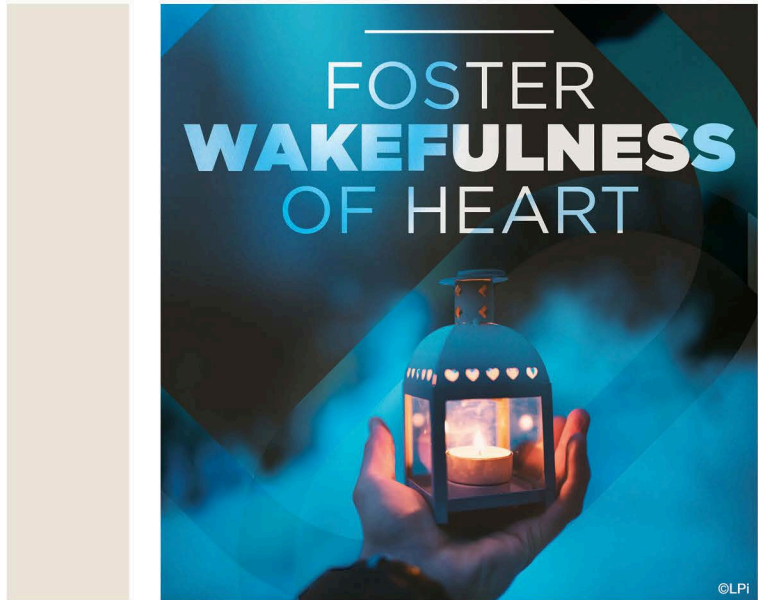
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
(8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? **"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep."** Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading:

The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel:

“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming.” (Mk 13:35)

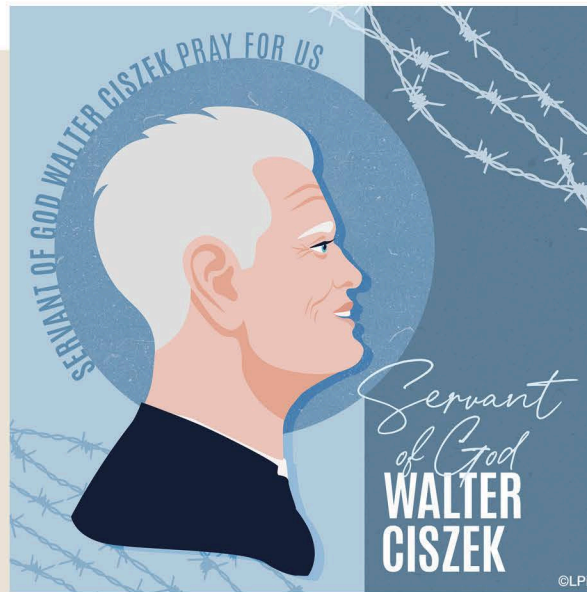
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show Him you are listening.

Observances for the week of December 3, 2023

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** St. Nicholas, Bishop
- Thursday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Friday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent



Saint of the week

Servant of God Walter Ciszek was a Jesuit priest and theologian who spent 23 years as a prisoner of war during the World War II and the Cold War. His endurance of suffering for his beliefs and his writings reminds us of the importance of religious freedom and the power of faith.

Prayer

We adore You, Most Holy Trinity, and we thank You for the exemplary life of Your Servant, Father Walter Ciszek. We pray that his strong faith in Your loving providence, his great love for You, and his kindness to all people be recognized by the Church. If it be Your will, may he be given to us as a saintly model of these virtues so that we too may be better motivated to dedicate our lives to Your greater honor and glory. We commend our petition through the prayers of the holy Mother of God. For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://www.ciszek.org/Prayers.html>)

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Memento Mori

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: “When we lose you” she kept saying, instead of “When you die.”

It’s very uncomfortable to dwell on our death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so: it demands that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

“You can’t do all your homework at the end,” a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. “Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us.”

I think of that a lot when I don’t particularly feel like praying, when I think I’m too busy to go to confession or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as I pack my family off to church. All our good deeds are like polluted rags, says the prophet. We have all withered like leaves.

You can’t do all your homework at the end. God is faithful. Are we?

“May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”
— Mark 13:36

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why haven’t Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

Answer:

If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches during the Mass.

Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups, to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: “Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material” (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood the Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

- Mk 13:33, 37

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

In prayer, the prophet Isaiah grieves over our sins that separates us from God. What sorrow or distress have you experienced over the past week?

Second Reading

Paul offers up a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the many gifts the believers have received because of their faith in Jesus. As we begin the season of Advent, for what are you thankful?

Gospel Reading

Each Advent, the Gospel reading begins with Jesus instructing his disciples to watch carefully for the end times. How often do you think about the Second Coming of Jesus and judgment day?



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“LET US NOT THINK OF THAT ADVENT ONLY WHEREBY THE SON OF MAN HAS ‘COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST,’ BUT ALSO OF THAT OTHER BY WHICH HE WILL COME AGAIN AND WILL TAKE US TO HIMSELF.”

ABBOT AND MYSTIC

-ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

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“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.” - Mk 13:35-36

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