

FOR THE WEEKEND OF NOV. 30-Dec. 1, 2025

First Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24: 37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As it was in the days of Noah,
so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days before the flood,
they were eating and drinking,
marrying and giving in marriage,
up to the day that Noah entered the ark.

They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away.

So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two men will be out in the field;
one will be taken, and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill;
one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house
had known the hour of night when the thief was coming,
he would have stayed awake
and not let his house be broken into.

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

Intercession

May we always be vigilant, through prayer and action, for the coming of the Lord, and may we help make God's loving presence known to others through our support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Bulletin Announcement

You never know what the future holds. Often, things happen with little or no warning. Today's natural disasters—tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, and tsunamis—are modern examples of Noah's flood. Noah's friends and neighbors scoffed at his ark building. They probably thought he had more than one screw loose. In the end, they paid the ultimate price because they didn't heed his warning.

Jesus explicitly tells His disciples to “stay awake” because they “do not know on which day [their] Lord will come.” The Second Coming is established, a promise from Jesus Himself. The only surprise is the actual time. This is good news because we are believers! Christ came first at Christmas, as an expression of God’s deep and abiding love for us. He died on the cross to wipe away our sins and rose from the dead so that we may have eternal life with Him in heaven. When the Son of Man returns “like a thief in the night,” the elect will enjoy the perfect existence with God that we have awaited here on earth.

Advent is a season of anticipation. And it a harbinger of a future that is electric with hope, the Second Coming. As believers in the Lord, Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to bring His hope to those who need it most. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Catholic Ministry Appeal to help make Christ known to the people We serve.

Pulpit Announcement

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is upon us. Time to prepare! We bake cookies, tick presents off our shopping list, wrap the Secret Santa gifts, decorate the tree, post the Christmas cards, hang the stockings, and string the lights. Preparing for Christmas as society dictates is fun and *part* of the holiday season, with “part” being the operative word.

But Christmas is so much more.

How are we preparing for Christ’s coming? And, how are we “staying awake” to the Lord already present in our lives? To be attentive to God’s presence now requires us to press pause on the freneticism, to quiet the mind, to be silent, to listen, to find God in the daily round of our lives, to rest in the Lord. Finding God in the everyday helps us prepare not only for His birth at Christmas but also keeps us vigilant for His Second Coming.

Advent means “to come.” We can prepare for Jesus’ coming with song and prayer and gatherings with loved ones. So, too, can we welcome the Christ child with service to others and support for the ministries the Catholic Ministry Appeal assists. Will you please consider a gift to the parish’s Appeal?

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Bright sunlight

Header: “Stay awake!” – Matthew 24:42

Copy: It’s easy to get caught up in our busy, everyday lives. This Advent, carve out some time to contemplate how God is working in our lives *now*! The Catholic Ministry Appeal brings God’s love to those who need it most in our world. Your support of the Appeal is one way you can prepare for the coming of the Son of Man.