

To the Heights

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Year A



Hear Click the Bible image for this week's readings if you don't have a Bible handy!

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 121(122):1-2, 4-5, 6-9

Second Reading:

Romans 13:11-14

Gospel:

Matthew 24:37-44

www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry



ascendwaterfordlismore.ym



AscendWaterfordLismoreYM



Ascend Youth Ministry



"Stay awake because you do not know the day when your Master is coming."

Game Changers

The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them, Game Changers! Check them out on our web page!

28 November St Catherine Laboure

30 November St Andrew

1 December St Charles de Foucauld

3 December St Francis Xavier



**Ascend
Advent
Playlist!**

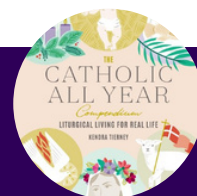


Reflect



1. What Old Testament story does Jesus reference in this Gospel passage?
2. What point does Jesus make about people at the time of the Flood?
3. Why does He caution the disciples to stay awake?
4. What analogy does He use to explain the necessity of staying awake?
5. Who is the Son of Man?
6. Do you think he literally means never sleep? Why could He mean instead?

CHECK IT OUT: THE CATHOLIC ALL YEAR COMPENDIUM



If you have been wondering how to bring the rich traditions of the Catholic Church's liturgical year into your family life, this is the book for you. If you have no idea what the liturgical year is, but you are looking for ways to bring your faith home from Sunday Mass—in every season, all year long—this is the book for you too.

Book by Kendra Tierney; available at Veritas



Never give up on God because He never gives up on you.
ARE YOU READY?

Can you believe it's Advent already? Where did that time go? In just a few weeks Christmas will be over and we'll be into a new year. But let's not get ahead of ourselves: today is the start of the liturgical new year and we have plenty of time to prepare well for Christmas. We hear in today's Gospel about the need to stay awake: obviously we literally can't do that, we need to sleep, but what Jesus is talking about is a deeper sense of wakefulness than that. Are we awake to the presence of God in our lives. Are we awake to the real meaning of Christmas? At Christmas we celebrate "Emmanuel", God-with-us. We have to remember that our God is not a distant God, watching us slip up with a frown on His face. No, He is a loving Father who does everything possible to win our hearts and bring us to Heaven. The whole story of Salvation history (which we retell through the Jesse Tree in Advent) reminds us that God never gives up. This is why the Church gives us the season of Advent: to be prepared to celebrate Jesus' first coming in Bethlehem, and His Second Coming, at the end of the world, or just the end of our lives. Let's not waste the time we have, but use it to serve God and others, and be the best version of ourselves!

Hidden Message



ark
awake
break
burglar
drinking
expect
Flood
hour
house
householder
husbands
master
millstone
Noah
ready
Son of Man
stand
wall

FIND THE WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH BELOW. WHAT LINK HAVE THESE WORDS TO THE GOSPEL?

E	P	Y	A	T	C	T	W	R	S	R	F	O	Y	H
K	K	D	R	E	Z	A	V	N	D	A	C	R	U	M
J	V	A	K	H	L	X	A	P	N	O	S	Z	E	M
J	R	E	W	L	O	M	T	Y	A	W	C	Y	U	E
N	C	R	O	A	F	U	R	O	B	K	I	L	T	T
E	Z	G	V	O	R	D	S	E	S	S	K	I	Y	V
C	N	L	N	D	E	T	D	E	U	J	F	Z	T	H
T	K	O	K	A	E	R	B	N	H	G	Q	Y	K	O
K	S	U	T	X	M	D	R	J	D	O	O	L	F	U
L	K	F	P	S	M	A	N	F	E	G	L	N	I	S
S	N	E	Z	Q	L	O	S	A	A	R	R	D	H	E
X	C	Z	O	O	A	L	D	T	T	X	U	P	E	N
T	T	S	W	H	Z	Q	I	O	E	S	O	W	Q	R
X	B	U	R	G	L	A	R	M	E	R	H	Y	B	Y
G	N	I	K	N	I	R	D	M	L	C	M	I	I	D

Pick one line from the gospel to reflect on this week!



TUNE OF THE WEEK



Come to Save Us

All Sons & Daughters



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Reflect in prayer, and ask God to guide you on how to live this Advent differently. He knows your heart and your deepest desires. He knows too, the wounds our pasts can cause us and areas where we need to choose healing. Choose one thing this week, a small or a big step - that's up to you!



True Meaning of Advent- Fr Mike Schmitz



Young Person's Prayer



(If you have a candle to hand, light it and pray...)
Son of God, You are the light of the world. Shine your light on all our choices this day. Create in us the ability to let your light shine forth for others. We ask this in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ave Maria Press

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED
JESUS (SKIT GUYS ANIMATION)



WHAT'S ON

Advent Reflections in the Diocese:

- St. John's Pastoral Centre, 7.30pm, 29 Nov, 'Perceiving life through the window of the soul' - Antoinette Dilworth rsj
- Park Hotel Dungarvan, 7.30pm, 5 Dec, 'Journeying with Advent Hope', Frances Rowland
- Minella Hotel Clonmel, 7.30pm, 12 Dec, 'Waiting through Advent, with Mary' - Gemma Mulligan

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat: 9 - 11 December, Newbridge - save the date!

Advent Family Day at Holy Family Mission. Sunday 4th December, 10am - 3pm. Prayer, Talk, Mass, Music, Fun and Games for all the Family! Bring a packed lunch. Booking is essential: email info@holymission.ie

REnewal Rosary Making Workshop for RE Teachers. Practical workshop on how to make twine rosaries with your students, plus other rosary resources, 25 Feb, 11am - 1pm. For more info email events@waterfordlismore.ie (certificate of attendance available) Register before Dec 15th to facilitate ordering of materials.





CHECK OUT THE
CATECHISM OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SAYS ABOUT THE
SEASON OF ADVENT
CCC 440



MATTHEW 24:37-44

Advent is...
Hopeful Anticipation
Expectant Waiting
Joyful Preparation

Are you ready?

WALKING DEBATE

- CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SHOULD GO UP STRAIGHT AFTER HALLOWEEN.
- CHRISTMAS MUSIC SHOULD NOT BE PLAYED UNTIL MID DECEMBER.
- CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SHOULD STAY UP UNTIL THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (OR LATER!)



DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY TRADITIONS AROUND DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS
/ PUTTING UP THE TREE / THE CRIB?

THINK - PAIR - SHARE!

WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT?



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "THE TRUE MEANING OF ADVENT"
(ASCENSION PRESENTS) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



What is Fr Mike's response to people wanting to put up Christmas decorations early:
what question should people ask themselves?

Advent is a season of preparation: what is the first thing we prepare to celebrate?

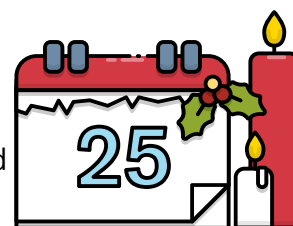
There's a deeper purpose to Advent: what is the second thing we prepare for?

Do we know when this event will happen?

How does Fr Mike explain how it will happen in our lifetimes one way or another?

What stark question does Fr Mike suggest we ask: what could we prepare for as
if it could happen on December 25th this year?

Fr Mike does not suggest this as a morbid thought. Instead he proposes it would
give focus to the season of Advent. In what way(s) could it have this effect?



ARE YOU READY?

MATTHEW 24:37-44

How did one of Fr Mike's students put this challenge into action? How easy would you find it to do something like that? What would hinder you? What would be the benefits?

Now Read - Matthew 24:37-44

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MISSION!

IF YOU WERE TO TAKE FR MIKE'S ADVICE, AND DECIDE TO LIVE THIS ADVENT SEASON DIFFERENTLY, WHAT CHANGES COULD YOU MAKE? DID ANY OF FR MIKE'S SUGGESTIONS RESONATE WITH YOUR HEART? REFLECT IN PRAYER, AND ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOU. HE KNOWS YOUR HEART AND YOUR DEEPEST DESIRES. HE KNOWS TOO, THE WOUNDS OUR PASTS CAN CAUSE US AND AREAS WHERE WE NEED TO CHOOSE HEALING. CHOOSE ONE THING THIS WEEK, A SMALL OR A BIG STEP - THAT'S UP TO YOU!

PRAYER TIME!

If you have an Advent Wreath, light the first purple candle. If you don't, try to find a tealight or candle you can light, to remind you of the Light of Christ that dispels the darkness of our world and brings Hope that darkness can never quench.

Son of God, You are the light of the world. Shine your light on all our choices this day. Create in us the ability to let your light shine forth for others. We ask this in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. Ave Maria Press



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

- [O Come, O Come Emmanuel \(Pentatonix\)](#)
- [Help from Heaven \(Matt Redman\)](#)
- [Prepare the Way \(Charlie Hall\)](#)
- [To those who wait \(Bethany Dillon\)](#)
- [Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus \(Meredith Andrews\)](#)
- [While I'm waiting \(John Waller\)](#)
- [Come to save us \(All Sons&Daughters\)](#)
- [I will wait \(Mumford & Sons\)](#)

Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



[The Big Story: Gospel Project \(Salvation History\)](#)



[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus The Skit Guys](#)



[Advent in Two Minutes Busted Halo](#)