LIVING GODÍS KORD

SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION FOR EACH DAY OF ADVENT

INTRODUCTION



Advent is a penitential season, which is something we might tend to forget. However, unlike the season of Lent, Advent is more like an invitation to do a thorough housecleaning before an important guest arrives someone we are really excited to see and spend time with. Our spiritual preparation over the next four weeks should focus on this housecleaning: What attitudes are in the way of my

getting closer to Christ? What thoughts or actions do I need to give up? What things have I been putting off that I need to put into practice to improve my relationship with Jesus?

The readings for Advent (which we will consider every day of the season on the pages to follow) focus heavily on themes of joyful expectation and patient waiting. In the first part of the season, we look forward to the return of the Lord. In the latter part of the season, we wait quietly for the revelation of the Incarnation, the Word Made Flesh dwelling among us. But for so many of us, this is not at all a time of quiet waiting; it is a season of rushing around, hectic chaos and running errand after errand. Do yourself the favor of allowing yourself at least a little bit of time each day of the season to focus on the Lord.

With this booklet, rooted in Scripture, you'll be able to catch your breath. You'll be prompted to respond to the Word by writing to yourself. Journaling can be especially powerful and revealing. You'll be asked to reflect, to tell yourself on each page how you are feeling, how you are cleaning house. In fact, if you need additional space to journal on any given day, there are a few extra journaling pages in the back for that purpose.

This spiritual journal is an invitation for you to spend some time away from all the noise, to sit quietly and wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord.

Christopher Klofft

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stay awake! ...Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known... when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake... So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

Matthew 24:42-44



As a penitential season, Advent is a time for housecleaning. As the Church begins this season, how ready am I? Is my spiritual house in need of a good housecleaning? What do I need to do to make myself ready for the coming of the Son of Man?

Isaiah 2:1-5 • Psalm 122:1-9 • Romans 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:37-44

December 2 MONDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

When the LORD washes away the filth...
And purges Jerusalem's blood... with...judgment
...the LORD [will] create...
A smoking cloud by day and a light of flaming fire by night.
...the LORD's glory will be shelter and protection:
shade from the parching heat of day, refuge and cover from storm and rain.

Isaiah 4:4-6

Live God's Word

The Lord promises to give us shelter from the harshness of our lives. We should be hopeful because of this! But the Lord also promises to wash away the filth of our lives with judgment. Today, am I more thankful for his shelter or am I more aware of his judgment?

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

Luke 10:23-24

Live <u>God's Word</u>

Francis Xavier saw things on his missionary journeys none of his brothers had ever seen. We, in turn, have been invited to see the wonders of Christ in our own lives. With whom can I share the things that we all long to see and hear? How can I share them?

Isaiah 11:1-10 • Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 • Luke 10:21-24

December 4

WEDNESDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples... he will destroy death forever. The Lord GoD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 25:7-8

Live God's Word

The Lord has shown great mercy to his people; he has destroyed death. How does this make me feel? Do I trust that the Lord can wipe away the tears of my struggles? Have I availed myself of his mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation? If not, what has kept me from doing so?

THURSDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

Matthew 7:24-25



What is the foundation of my life? Especially in the day-to-day circumstances of my life, do I rely on my money, my opinions and the pace of the day to carry me through? Do I take time to reflect on my values? How do I ground my own self-identity in Christ?

Isaiah 26:1-6 • Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 • Matthew 7:21, 24-27

December 6

FRIDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

For the tyrant will be no more and the arrogant will have gone; All who are alert to do evil will be cut off, those whose mere word condemns a man, Who ensnare his defender at the gate, and leave the just man with an empty claim.

Isaiah 29:20-21

Live God's Word

With whom do I identify more in this passage? Am I the tyrant or the arrogant? Or am I the just one? I want to believe that I am just, but how have I acted so far this Advent season? Can I be more just?

Isaiah 29:17-24 • Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 • Matthew 9:27-31

ST. AMBROSE

Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.

Matthew 10:6-8

Live God's Word

What are some of the ways I have received without cost? How can I give of myself to make the kingdom more present to the people with whom I come in contact? St. Ambrose used his eloquence to lead Augustine to Christ. What gifts will I use to do likewise?

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 • Psalm 147:1-6 • Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8

Allow yourself to be transformed this Advent as you are encouraged to not only read God's Word, but to live it. *Living God's Word*, a unique and powerful Advent resource, will guide you through the Church's Advent readings and prompt you to write out your impressions for each day of the season. Journaling can be especially powerful and revealing.

As you reflect on the Word of God, insightful prompts, based on the readings of the day, will guide you ever closer to welcoming Jesus with your whole heart at Christmastime. Get your pen or pencil ready and begin creating a keepsake for yourself, a keepsake that is based on the timeless readings of the Bible.



This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on **amazon**kindle and **nook**



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