

Service at Home for those unable to attend Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PREPARATION:

- Comfortable seating, place in a semicircle if possible.
- A table with a crucifix or image of Jesus,
- Identify family members who will proclaim the Scripture and perhaps give a brief reflection.
- Select 2 or 3 hymns that everyone knows
- ADVENT- Make an Advent wreath, or use four candles, light one candle for each Sunday of Advent and say the prayer

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

LEADER: “In truth I tell you once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them.” (*Mt: 18:19-20*)

A family member lights a candle on the Advent Wreath while the following prayer is said;

LEADER: All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Do we look for the Lord? And when we find him, do we point him out to others? Let us examine ourselves before the Lord. (PAUSE)

LEADER: Lord Jesus; awaken your might and come to our help: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: Christ Jesus; bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be saved: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

LEADER: Lord Jesus; we shall never forsake you again; give us life, that we may call upon your name: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: Have mercy on us, Lord, and take away all our sins. Show yourself to us and lead us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Let us pray: Open wide the heavens and come down, O God of all the ages! Rouse us from our sleep, deliver us from our sinful ways, and form us into a watchful people, that, at the advent of your Son, he may find us doing what is right. Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

READINGS –

1st Reading is taken from Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8

Responsorial Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

2nd Reading is taken from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The Gospel is taken from Mark 13:33-37

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord

A Short Reflection can be given or a period of silent reflection

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

LEADER: As we enter the holy season of Advent, we ask God our Father to help us to stay awake and make ready for the coming of our Saviour

Family members are invited to make their petitions.

LORD'S PRAYER:

LEADER: Let us pray to our faithful God in the words of Jesus his Son, that his kingdom may come to all:

ALL: *Our Father.....*

LEADER: Jesus comes to us in the bread of the Eucharist. Though we cannot receive him in Holy Communion today let us invite him into our hearts as we pray the Act of Spiritual Communion

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

ALL: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

LEADER: Let us pray: God our Father, we have gathered as a family in the presence of your son to pray and to listen to your Word. Mould us like clay in the hands of the potter, make us watchful and alert so that when your son returns, he may find us bringing to our cold world the warmth of his love and friendship, of his compassion and his integrity, that people may see the day when they can recognize among us your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

BLESSING:

LEADER: We believe that the Son of God once came to us; we look for him to come again. May his coming bring us the light of his holiness.

ALL: Amen

LEADER: May God make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of our life.

ALL: Amen

LEADER: We rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us. When he comes again in glory, may he reward us with life without end.

ALL: Amen

LEADER: And may our loving God bless us, In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;

ALL: Amen