

1 DECEMBER, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From Father Jacob

Prepare the way of the Lord!

In Advent, we *prepare* for the coming of the Lord.

We prepare to celebrate the Lord's *first coming* as a child in Bethlehem to save us.

We prepare to be ready for the Lord's *second coming* in glory to judge the living and the dead.

We prepare ourselves to humbly receive the Lord in his "*middle coming*" every day in the sacraments, in the Scriptures, in prayer, and in my neighbor.

When someone important is coming to your house, you certainly prepare to receive them. I know when people come to my house I prepare in three big ways:

1. Clean: I pick up the house, vacuum, dust, etc.
2. Make space: I make sure there are spaces for them to sit at the table, in the living room, etc. To get the guest room ready we might have to move furniture!
3. Decorate: For special guests we bring out the nice plates and use the special silverware.

We can do the same things to prepare for the coming of the Lord!

1. Clean: I examine my life with the Lord and ask his strength to clean up what needs it. I go to confession. *Prayer* gives me strength and perspective to clean up my heart.
2. Make space: I move things around in my life to put the Lord and his works in the center. Some things might have to go and others get put away to make this happen. *Fasting* helps me put things in their proper place.
3. Decorate: I want my heart and my life to be beautiful for the Lord. *Good works* adorn my life and my heart and make them beautiful.

Be vigilant at all times

How can we stay vigilant at all times and prepared for the coming of the Lord?

It's not as hard as it may seem. How would you keep your house clean at all times? By cleaning it regularly. Our souls are not so different.

If we examine our souls and our lives daily and address the problems we find there, then we will not be caught off guard at the coming of the Lord. It is easy to do so.

An easy examen prayer

1. review the day with the Lord.

You might wish to think chronologically or in categories (home, work, prayer).

2. Thank God for 2-3 specific blessings

~~Thank you for my family~~

Thank you for the conversation I had with my son after dinner because...

3. Ask God's forgiveness for 2-3 specific sins

~~I'm sorry I am short-tempered~~

I'm sorry I was short-tempered with my spouse this morning when...

4. Ask God's help with 2-3 specific things

~~Help me be generous.~~

Help me be generous by doing _____ when I see _____ tomorrow.

When we are vigilant about our souls and our lives then we are prepared to do good when the opportunity presents itself, prepared to be courageous when the moment calls for it, prepared to resist temptation when it comes, and ultimately prepared for the coming of the Lord to judge us.

1 DECEMBER, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READINGS FOR: December 8, 2024
1ST READING: Baruch 5:1-9
2ND READING: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

MASS SCHEDULE

Tue	12/3	8:00 am	Bob Burke
Wed	12/4	8:00 am	Posted Prayer Intentions
Thurs	12/5	5:30 pm	Dorothy Snook-RIP
Fri	12/6	8:00 am	Jacque Rallis-RIP
Sat	12/7	4:00 pm	Bill Epperson-RIP & Robert Kirlin
Sun	12/8	8:00 am	JoAnn Kirlin & St. Peter's Parish
		10:00 am	Deb Taylor
		Noon	Mary Lynn Rutkowski & Dan Hudek

SATURDAY, 4PM December 7, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: Bianca & Ellianna Cihacek, Nicholas Moses
LECTORS: Amy Rallis, Jim Beck
EUCH MINISTERS: Rod Nuss, 2 Euch Ministers needed
USHERS: Jack Gross, Linda Bonham, Fred Schaben, Brody Pellett

SUNDAY, 8 AM, December 8, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: Evan & Jeff Veit, Dawson Smith
LECTORS: Genette Wirtz, Jim Pidgeon
EUCH MINISTERS: Patti Ford, Norma Finn, Wayne Stangl
USHERS: Jeff Veit, Eric Ledger, Sue Brownlee, Mike Rosloniec

SUNDAY, 10 AM December 8, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: Abby & Sarah Lighthipe, Aiden Gaul
LECTORS: Jon & Maureen Garrigan
EUCH MINISTERS: Jennifer Lighthipe, Theresa Jozwiak, Sandy Fritzsche
USHERS: Margine Henry, Mike Nielsen, Olivia Ausdemore, Nate Noon

SUNDAY, NOON December 8, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: Ben & Payton Johnson, Grace Burroughs
LECTORS: Chris Maher, Mary Ramsdell
EUCH MINISTERS: Cindy Bussey, Michael Koracic, 1 Euch Minister needed
USHERS: Rob Peters, Trevor Yanovich, Chris Olson, Mikey Donovan

FATHER'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Lord's advice to us, we would do well to listen!

One of the best ways that we can remain vigilant and prepared to stand before the Lord is to review our day in prayer daily.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS® next meeting is Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at St. Patrick Social Hall. Mass starts at 6:00 pm, followed by a short meeting and our Christmas party. Women, 18 years and older from all Council Bluffs parishes are always welcome to join us. Visit our website at www.cda330.org.

You better watch out, better not cry, better not pout because Santa will be in the Father Kottas Social Hall on Sunday, December 8 after the 10:00 am Mass. Visit with Santa and have a snack. Parents: Don't forget your camera so you can take pictures and show those pictures when the kids are teens.

FULLY ALIVE YOUTH GROUP-Meeting Sunday, December 1, 2024 7pm-9pm in the Father Kottas Social Hall. It's a Baby Shower for Jesus Birthright collection. See flyer for details.

Knights of Columbus Gorilla Car Wash fundraiser will be selling the car wash tickets at the December 8 meet Santa coffee & rolls. The fundraiser goes from now thru December 15- These make wonderful stocking stuffers. See attached flyer for all the details.

LIFE ACCORDING TO JEAN.....

- You can tell the age of a Christmas tree by counting the lines of duct tape on the box.
- I told my 3 year old grandson James, "I don't want to tell you again to pick up your toys," James responded, "That makes two of us."
- If my relatives wanted me to be truly thankful, they'd do all the cooking.
- Wrap turkey leftovers in aluminum foil and throw them out. Follow me for more cooking tips.
- Good news! If you don't want Alexa to listen in on your conversations, they are making a male version that won't listen to anything you say.
- Dads know everything...If they don't they make stuff up really fast.
- Why is it called beauty sleep when you wake up looking like a troll?
- If you put dry teabags in your shoes they absorb the odor. So your shoes smell good but the tea tastes so bad it's almost not worth it.
- My Roomba just beat me to an M & M I dropped on the floor. I guess this is how the war against machines will begin.
- I just want to be talented enough to put a piece of plastic wrap on a bowl without having it stick to itself.
- When you retire all your dogs think you quit your jobs to spend more time with them. All cats think you got fired for being lazy.
- My daily routine: Morning: Feeling tired, cranky, and lazy. Afternoon: I could go for a nap. Night: I can't sleep.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK, STAY SAFE, BE NICE TO EACH OTHER

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, December 1-Fully Alive Youth Group-7-9pm Hall
 Thursday-December 5-Altar Society-6pm Hall
 Sunday-December 8-Santa is visiting the Social Hall after 10am Mass

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