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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — NOVEMBER 27, 2016

## Good News!

November 27, 2016 | First Sunday of Advent (A)  
Is 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Mt 24:37-44

I am Fr. Mark Haydu, LC, and I am head of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums in Rome. Since sacred art has always been an essential element of prayer and liturgy, it is a fitting enhancement to our Sunday celebrations. I'll be accompanying you each Sunday over these next three years in these reflections to reflect and pray.

Staying awake is a frequent and important Advent theme. Jesus mentions being awake in today's Gospel and again in Matthew 25:13 and 26:38. We are to ready ourselves to encounter him at our personal judgment and again in the Final Judgment. Like a watchman who stands over the city or a guard who protects the entry gate, we are to be vigilant, "For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

In ancient times, it was common to have a servant posted at the door to protect you through the night and to watch over the house in your absence. Today's sculpture, (Piece: Sleeping Servant; Artist unknown; 1st century ad; Location: Vatican, Santa Rosa) which is part of an ancient tombstone, depicts such a servant—albeit one who dozed off.

Begin your Advent preparations by receiving Christ in the Eucharist, "For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Jesus is not far away but very near. He enters our hearts in the form of bread and wine. Are you ready, or will he catch you by surprise?

### For Reflection

What can I do to prepare myself and my family for Christ's coming on Christmas, in the Eucharist, and at any other time in our lives?

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### WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.  
Sundays at 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.  
Holy Days at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

### WELCOME!

If you are new in the Parish, please register and introduce yourself to the Pastor. The Parishioners wish to meet and serve you! Drop by at our Coffee Social or Pancake Breakfast after the Sunday Mass, both per the Calendar online or as announced inside the bulletin. We hope you will favor our Parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance according to your means!

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Saturday 4:15 PM — 4:45 PM

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please call the rectory (860-643-4466) to arrange for a meeting with the Pastor.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Arrangements must start more than 6 months before marriage. Necessary interviews, a pre-cana course and plenty of paperwork is required. We strongly urge you to contact us to begin the Diocesan preparation course as soon as you are engaged to get the most out of it without rush.

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

The Sacramental Guidelines define Church Membership in terms of Sunday Mass attendance and Church support. For membership verification and sponsorship certificate, registration and regular use of the envelope system are the only way we have of verifying this for you. Please notify us if there are changes in your address, marital status, etc., so that we may update your records.

### VISITATION TO THE SICK:

We are most anxious to help anyone who is not able to celebrate Mass with us in Church due to illness, handicapped or age. If you wish the Sacraments, please call 860-643-4466.



**THIS WEEK**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 26 — 27, 2016**

**USHERS GROUP I**

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION — ST. MAURICE FUEL FUND**

**SATURDAY, NOV 26**

**4:00 P.M.** Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

*Altar Servers:* TBD  
*Lectors:* Georgette Pelletier  
*Eucharistic Minister:* Annedda Stiller

**SUNDAY, NOV 27**

**7:30 A.M.** Mass offered for †Mike Giglio request of Gloria Holbrook

*Altar Servers:* Shirley Holbrook  
*Lector:* Judy Trzcinski  
*Eucharistic Minister:* Linda Richardson

**8:30 A.M. — 8:50 A.M. YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL**  
*in the Church*

**NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

**10:00 A.M.** Mass offered for †All Departed Souls request of Anna's Family

*Altar Servers:* LeeAnn & Ben Snuffer  
*Lector:* Rita Sheetz  
*Eucharistic Minister:* Rita Sheetz

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass**

**MONDAY, NOV 28 — NO MASS**

**TUESDAY, NOV 29 — NO MASS**

**7:15 P.M. ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 30 — NO MASS**

**THURSDAY, DEC 1 — NO MASS**

**FRIDAY, DEC 2 — NO MASS**

**SATURDAY, DEC 3**

**3:30 P.M. ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS**



**STEWARDSHIP**

**Last week's Offertory: November 20**

**Projected Amount needed \$2,980**

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

*MATTHEW 24:42*

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given.



**NEXT WEEK**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 3 — 4, 2016**

**USHERS GROUP II**

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION — ST. MAURICE FUEL FUND**

**SATURDAY, DEC 3**

**4:00 P.M.** Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

*Altar Servers:* TBD  
*Lectors:* Georgette Pelletier  
*Eucharistic Minister:* Bert Flynn

**SUNDAY, DEC 4**

**7:30 A.M.** Mass offered for †Lena C. Bloznalis request of The Dean & Bloznalis Families

*Altar Servers:* Shirley Holbrook  
*Lector:* Judy Knox  
*Eucharistic Minister:* Arlene Giglio

**8:30 A.M. — 8:50 A.M. YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL**  
*in the Church*

**8:30 A.M. BREAKFAST FOR FAITH FORMATION**

**9:00 A.M. FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

**10:00 A.M.** Mass offered for †John Garvan request of Frances Garvan

*Altar Servers:* Emilia & Marta Herasimowicz  
*Lector:* Lee Snuffer  
*Eucharistic Minister:* Janusz Herasimowicz

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass**

**MONDAY, DEC 5**

**9:00 A.M.** Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

**TUESDAY, DEC 6**

**9:00 A.M.** Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

**7:15 P.M. ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 7**

**9:00 A.M.** Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

**THURSDAY, DEC 8 — Day of Obligation**

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**9:00 A.M.** Mass offered for †Col. and †Mrs. Werner Moore request of Hope Grunske

*Altar Servers:* TBD  
*Lector:* Judy Knox  
*Eucharistic Minister:* Lou Cloutie

**7:00 P.M.** Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

*Altar Servers:* Alex Czercowy

*Lector:* Jeffrey Monroe

*Eucharistic Minister:* Kathleen Smythe

**FRIDAY, DEC 9 — NO MASS**

**SATURDAY, DEC 10**

**3:30 P.M. ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS**

**Readings for the Week of November 27, 2016**

**Sunday:** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

**Monday:** Is 4:2-6/Ps 122/Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24

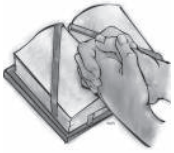
**Wednesday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 23/Mt 4:18-22

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8

**FROM SAINT MAURICE PARISH**

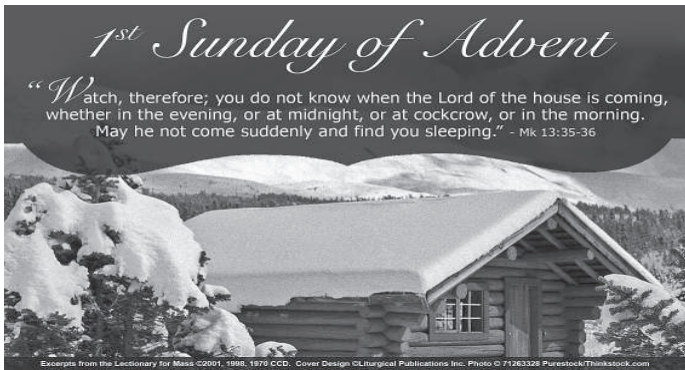


**ST. MAURICE PRAYER LINE**

Please remember all the special intentions on the St. Maurice Prayer Line, especially the new requests for this week. Thank you. Carol and MaryAnn.

This month's prayer intentions:

**Pray for the Souls in Purgatory**



Another Advent is here! Do you remember what you did during Advent last year to prepare for the coming of Jesus? Did you feel a sense of anticipation while being watchful and alert? You can be honest.

In Mark's Gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus speaks of a man who leaves on travel and before he departs he puts his stewards in charge, so that upon his return his home will be ready. You and I are those whom Jesus has put in charge. We each have our own work to do. If we are not preparing using our own unique gifts and talents, who will do our work? Perhaps we think we can do that later, or maybe next year. But if no one knows when he is coming, how do we gauge how much time we have to complete our work?

Most of us get so caught up in holiday shopping, making travel plans, preparing for guests, and attending holiday parties that even if we meant well, the motivation we had on day one of the Advent season slowly slips away. This year, let us resolve to be good stewards and be about our Lord's work. He trusted us enough to leave us in charge. He must believe we are up to the task.

**SAINT BRIDGET HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**

**Saturday, December 3rd**  
**74 Main Street, Manchester**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Come do your holiday shopping with us. We have over 75 crafters with handmade hats and gloves, Glassware, soap and lotions, Christmas décor and wreathes, wood craves items, jewelry, knitted blankets, snowmen and handmade light up reindeer, stocking stuffers, homemade special breads, doll clothing, ornaments and so much more. You must stop by and browse!!! We serve hot lunches and lots of bake goods for sale. Santa will be stopping by for a visit with his bag of goodies. We are handicapped accessible. Admission is free.

**FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**



**2016 Fall Retreat**  
**Endless Mercy & Advent**  
**With Mother Olga**

**St Bernard Church**  
**Saturday, December 3rd**  
**9:00am—3:30pm**

The Catholic Community of St. Bernard & St. Matthew Church invites you to join their annual retreat December 3. This year's speaker will be Mother Olga Yaqob, foundress and mother servant of The Daughters of Mary of Nazareth. The retreat will be held at Saint Bernard Church in Rockville. Cost is \$25 and includes speaker, continental breakfast and lunch. Registration deadline is extended to November 28.

**For Registration forms: [SaintBernardChurch.org](http://SaintBernardChurch.org)**

**The monthly Diocesan Pro-Life Mass will take place at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on Saturday, December 3 at 8:30 A.M.** Please join our celebrant Rev. Joseph Whittel at Mass as we pray to end abortion and for the healing for those who have had an abortion. Following the Mass, the Rosary will be prayed both at the Cathedral and Planned Parenthood. A brunch in the Cathedral Hall will follow the Rosary this month.

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation**

**For the Priests in the Diocese of Norwich**

**NEWPORT, RI.**—The Annual Convocation for Priests will be held from November 28-30, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Goat Island in Newport, RI. It will be a time for all priests to gather with their bishop for spiritual renewal, support, education and rest. No parish, school or institutional activities will be scheduled during these days. Please pray for your priests, as they will be praying for you.

The theme of this year's Convocation is **"Becoming Merciful Servants of the New Evangelization."** The key presenter will be Reverend Jack Rathschmidt, a Capuchin Franciscan Friar, who holds a M.Th. in spirituality from the Weston College School of Theology and a Ph.D. from Fordham University in Historical Theology

Bishop Cote emphasized the importance of this annual gathering in his letter inviting each priest to the Convocation, "Your presence and commitment to this time together is important to me. This year we celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> year of gathering as a presbyterate for the Convocation."

**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

Those who say that the Catholic Church is discriminating against poor women by opposing the health care mandate are completely misinformed. The Catholic Church is against requirements contained in the mandate that would force it to pay for surgical procedures such as: sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception that go against the Church's moral convictions, and therefore, impede religious freedom.

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