

# People & Scripture

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# Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show Him you are listening.

## Observances for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of

the Church

Wednesday: St. Nicholas, Bishop

Thursday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of

the Church

**Friday:** The Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

# Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

## Sunday:

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

## Monday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11

## Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

## Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ Mt 15:29-37

## Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/ Mt 7:21, 24-27

### Friday:

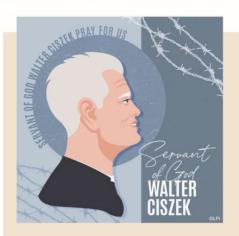
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

## Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

## **Next Sunday:**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



## Saint of the week

Servant of God Walter Ciszek was a Jesuit priest and theologian who spent 23 years as a prisoner of war during the World War II and the Cold War. His endurance of suffering for his beliefs and his writings reminds us of the importance of religious freedom and the power of faith.



## Novena Week 5



## REFLECTION:

Controlled chaos. Deafening silence. Bittersweet.

Oxymorons like these are an amusing part of speech. They place together words that, at first glance, appear to be at odds with one another. Yet in context, they often make sense and even bring about greater clarity when dealing with the nuances of life.

The Church, in her wisdom, gives us two seemingly contradictory terms to explain the primacy of the Eucharist: source and summit. "The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it" (CCC 1324).

Let's dive a bit deeper into what is meant by "source and summit."

The Eucharist is the source of our Christian life.

In the Old Testament, God gave the Israelites a sweet bread called manna to sustain them while they journeyed toward the Promised Land. In the New Testament, Jesus miraculously multiplied bread to temporarily satiate the hunger of thousands. But, before his Passion and Death, Christ gave his very self by becoming bread to sustain us with his everlasting presence.

To use an analogy, just as a television can only operate properly when plugged into an electrical socket, Christians only function properly when they are connected to the Living God. God becomes our food, the power source for the human soul. When you have a source of life, you can be a source of life.

The Eucharist is also the summit of our Christian life.

The Eucharist is the pinnacle of our faith. There is no act of worship that is perfect or pleasing to the Father except for the obedience Christ offers to him, shown in its full glory through his Paschal Mystery. We have been given the chance to share in this worship through our participation in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is a foretaste of our heavenly worship and our eternal reward. Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist allows us the opportunity to encounter this reality daily.

Sadly, we can forget about the primacy of the Eucharist by mistaking it for merely a symbol or reducing it to just another religious ritual. This can make us miss out on all the transformative graces available to us in the Blessed Sacrament. If we truly desire revival, we must desire a renewed encounter with Jesus. Luckily for us, God makes himself incredibly accessible to those who long for him.

A miracle transpires at every liturgy. Through transubstantiation, God dwells with us in the form of bread and wine. Though our five senses cannot detect a change in the substances, the eyes of faith reveal that Christ is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. For this reason, the Eucharist is the fount and apex—the source and summit—of every grace and blessing because the Eucharist is Christ, our Pasch.

In the sacrifice of the Mass, God offers us a chance to participate in divine communion, sharing his own life with us. In the Eucharist we are offered a chance for a deep and personal encounter with Jesus, who is both the foundation of our faith as well as the height of it. That may seem like a contradiction, but it is a consistent truth. Today, let us not miss the love that awaits us in the Blessed Sacrament.

### PRAYER:

Jesus, we thank you for your great gift of yourself in the Eucharist. Please give us the grace to believe in your True Presence when our human senses fail. We desire the eyes of faith because we believe you are the spring of every good thing. Nothing is better than you. Allow us to be good and pure vessels, ready to partake and receive you in the Blessed Sacrament. We believe; help our unbelief. Amen.

### CHALLENGE:

Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. If you have access to an adoration chapel, or even if it's a visit to your church where Jesus is present in the Tabernacle, go and make an act of faith. You could pray, "Jesus, I believe that you are present here with me, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. I pray for our Church, that all may come to believe in your Real Presence here."

# **Reflections & Questions**



## Waiting, Waiting, and Waiting

The word *advent* means *coming*, and is the name given to this pre-Christmas season of anticipation and reflection. It encapsulates three profound meanings that shape the essence of our Christian faith. Firstly, Advent serves as a poignant reminder of the faithful's anticipation of Christ's second coming. It beckons believers to cultivate a spirit of vigilance and preparedness, echoing Christ's own words in the Gospels that exhort followers to be watchful for the unknown hour of His return. This aspect of Advent invites a contemplative examination of one's life and the alignment of actions with the teachings of Christ.

Secondly, Advent heralds the eagerly awaited celebration of the first coming of Christ, culminating in the joyous event of Christmas. Beyond the commercial glitter, Advent invites believers to journey through the prophetic promises, the silent longing of the Old Testament, and the miraculous fulfillment in the birth of Jesus. The liturgical season provides a space for spiritual preparation, allowing individuals to delve into the significance of the Incarnation and to rejoice in the profound mystery of Emmanuel, "God with us."

Lastly, Advent encapsulates the anticipation of the coming of Christ in the Eucharist at every Mass. This sacramental dimension of Advent underscores the belief in the real presence of Christ in the consecrated elements, inviting the faithful to approach the altar with reverence and awe. This continual expectation of encountering Christ in the Eucharist serves as spiritual nourishment, fostering a deeper communion with the divine and reinforcing the notion of Christ's abiding presence in the lives of believers.

During Advent we are a people who wait: wait for Christ's second coming, wait to celebrate his first coming at Christmas, and wait for him to come to us in the Eucharist at every Mass. Together, these three dimensions weave a tapestry of anticipation, hope, and spiritual preparation that enrich the Christian journey during this sacred season.

Columbus Pro-Life Club The Pro-Life Club is a new student-led group at Columbus High School. It is hoping to make a difference in the Post-Roe vs. Wade Generation. From December 1-15 we will be collecting items such as nursing pads, infant and toddler toys, toddler clothes, and more to be donated to the First Choice Pregnancy Center in Stevens Point. There are boxes located in each church in the Marshfield Deanery with a complete list of items you can donate. If you are unable to provide items at this time we ask that you offer a prayer for all of the aborted babies, the unborn, and all mothers contemplating abortion that God may change their hearts and show them the beauty of motherhood. Thank you for your support—Columbus High School Pro-Life

Sacred Heart Hall Update Currently, the masonry, the interior wall painting, and the staining of the windows has been completed; the tile in the restrooms, the soffit & fascia, the aluminum entrances, and the kitchen upper cabinets have been installed. The installation of the kitchen base cabinets and countertops, light fixtures, and gas service has begun and is near completion. Later this week, plumbing in the kitchen and restrooms, and sheetrock texturing and painting in the connecting corridor will begin along with the installation of acoustical tile; wooden doors, frames, and hardware; and toilet partitions and accessories.

Calendars Today, calendars will be blessed at Mass and distributed. During the distribution, The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts of the Year will be chanted. While this ancient proclamation traditionally happens on Epiphany, it seems more fitting for us to do it as we begin the new liturgical year to coincide with our calendar blessing and distribution.

**Toys for Tots** The last day to drop off toys will be this Tuesday, December 5, at Melody Gardens or any other Toys for Tots drop off location.

# Mass Intentions for the Week of December 3, 2023

## **Tuesday December 5th**

7:00 am (Columbus Chapel)

-Rick and Nancy Merkel Family (Living & Deceased)

8:00 am (Our Lady of Peace)

† Paul Adler by Deb Adler

## Wednesday December 6th

7:00 am (Columbus Chapel)

† Laura Lenz by PCCW

8:00 am (Sacred Heart)

† Lorraine Sternweis (Anniversary of

Death) by Sternweis Family

† Kenneth Hill by Joe & Stephanie Hill

## **Thursday December 7th**

8:00 am (Our Lady of Peace)

† Joseph A. & Betty H. Bohman by Bohman Family

2:00 pm (Marshfield Care Center)

† Joe and Martha Steckler by Steven and Julie Van Wyhe

## Friday December 8th

8:00 am - (Our Lady of Peace)

† Patricia Pankratz by Gerald Pankratz

5:30 pm - (Sacred Heart)

† Dale & Danielle Sternberg by Sharon Sternberg

† Kathleen (Stone) Sullivan by Family & Friends

† Cecelia Shaw by Vivian Gamble

† Vi Charron by Ron & Theresa Konopa

## Saturday December 9th

4:00 pm (Our Lady of Peace)

† Philip and Victor Ejercito by The Ejercito Family

## **Sunday December 10th**

8:00 am (Sacred Heart)

† Jack & Michael Hackman by Jo Anne Hackman

-Living & Deceased Women of Sacred Heart (Living & Deceased) by PCCW 10:00 am (Our Lady of Peace)

† Robert & Patricia Beck by Johanna & James Holzberger

## Questions of the Week

## First Reading

In prayer, the prophet Isaiah grieves over our sins that separates us from God. What sorrow or distress have you experienced over the past week?

## Second Reading

Paul offers up a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the many gifts the believers have received because of their faith in Jesus. As we begin the season of Advent, for what are you thankful?

## **Gospel Reading**

Each Advent, the Gospel reading begins with Jesus instructing his disciples to watch carefully for the end times. How often do you think about the Second Coming of Jesus and judgment day?

**TMIY** All men are invited this Tuesday December 5, at 6:00 a.m. in Dillenburg Hall at Our Lady of Peace Parish for this week's *That Man Is You* gathering. A light breakfast will be provided.

Holy Day of Obligation This Friday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is the patronal feast of the United States of America and is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace and a 5:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Christmas Luncheon All are invited to the Sacred Heart PCCW Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 11, at 12:30 p.m. at Rembs Celebration Center. Registration and payment of \$10.00 is required by Sunday, December 3. Please stop by the Sacred Heart Parish Office to register and drop off your payment or enclose it in an envelope with you name written on it and place in the Sunday collection.

Columbus Band & Choir Breakfast The Annual Columbus Band and Choir Breakfast will be Sunday, December 10, fro 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace in Dillenburg Hall. Students will perform and all the proceeds will go to support the Columbus Catholic Schools music programs.

## **Mission & Action**

Columbus Catholic Schools Concerts This year, the Columbus Catholic Schools Christmas Concerts will be on Sunday, December 10, at Columbus High School in the Father Hugh Deeny Memorial Auditorium: Elementary School Concert, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Choir Concert, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Band Concert, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



**Deanery Advent Confessions** The Marshfield Deanery Advent Day of Confession will be Sunday, December 17, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace.

Doctrine on Draft Our next Doctrine on Draft, will be Wednesday, December 20. The topic of discussion will be Who Is Jesus Christ? This is most fitting as we prepare to celebrate his Incarnation at Christmas.



**Living Stations** All high school students are invited to participate in the Living Stations during Lent. There are no lines to memorize only a willing spirit. Please contact Carol at 715-387-4497.

**Emergency Housing Support** This year proceeds from the Angel Tree at Our Lady of Peace Parish will go to assist St. Vincent de Paul in providing emergency housing for those in need. There are also green envelopes in the back of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church is \$3.00 and skate rental is \$1.00. for you to place donations in and put in the collection for this same purpose.

Pilgrimage As part of the National Eucharistic Revival, Father Robertson and Father Clements will be leading a pilgrimage to Italy from April 8-15—visiting Rome, Assisi, and Orvieto, the site of the Eucharistic miracle which led to our yearly celebration of Corpus Christi, Brochures are available at the church entrances

Pilgrimage Raffle From November 13 through January 7 tickets for the Funding Faith Travel Raffle will be available for sale. The Grand Prize will be two tickets for the April pilgrimage to Italy sponsored by Fr. Robertson and Fr. Clements—a value of \$6,700.00! Each ticket is \$100 and the proceeds will go toward funding Catholic youth activities in Marshfield. Only 500 tickets will be sold, so buy you tickets early. If you are interested talk to either Fr. Robertson or Fr. Clements.



Senior Stockings Help stuff our Senior Stockings. Through December 22, will be collecting monetary donations at both Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and Our Lady of Peace Parish to cover the

cost of Christmas gifts for approximately 75 residents of the Marshfield Care Center on 14th Street. Please place your donation in the Senior Stocking in the back of church.



Presentation on the Eucharist Today, December 3, at 6:00 p.m., Father Sam Martin will present a talk at St. Mary Parish in Colby, The Holy Eucharist Hope, Healing and the Foretaste of Heaven, with Eucharistic Adoration following until a social at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert St. Wenceslaus Parish in Miladore, St. Kilian Parish in Blenker, and St. Michael Parish in Hewitt, will host a Community Christmas Concert at St. Michael Parish on Sunday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m. with light refreshments following.

Seasonal Favorites Concert The Hub City Symphony will host its Seasonal Favorites Concert this Friday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the UWSP-Marshfield Helen Connor Laird Theater, 2000 West 5th Street. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at tickets.uwsp.edu or at the door the night of the concert.

Melody Gardens Christian Music Skate The next Christian Music Skate Night will be on Wednesday, December 27, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Admission



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#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

### **CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

Saturday 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 am Saturday 4:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am



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#### **CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

1st Friday 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

1st Friday 5:30 pm Wednesday & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays 8:00 am Sunday 8:00 am

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