

Prayer Gathering for First Week of Advent

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving and generous God,
with the hands of a master potter, you formed us
and placed us precisely where we could serve you with faithfulness.
Help us to awaken to your voice as you call to us through the events of our lives.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.”
**How often do you think of yourself as a work of art that God has created by hand?
How does seeing yourself this way make you feel? What does it make you want to do?**

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,”
**When in your life have you sensed that God was trying to get your attention?
How did God do it?**

POSTED RECENTLY

Every death is a wake up call
to live life more fully.

- Oprah Winfrey

The universe is not short on
wake-up calls. We're just quick
to hit the snooze button.

Brené Brown

DISCUSSION

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”
How does a person stay spiritually watchful or spiritually alert?

What is the biggest wake-up call you've ever gotten? How did it change you?

When have you “hit the snooze button” on a wake-up call? What was the result?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church will keep people's minds on what is most important and not lose focus; Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That our parish will build bridges to non-members who are open to having you in their lives;
Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That elected officials will put the common good ahead of personal goals; Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That people in depression will feel you lift them from within; Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That we may see setbacks as opportunities to grow in humility and strengthen trust in you;
Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That each wake-up call will be a doorway to our growth; Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That mothers who are expecting may be surrounded with your love and protection; Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That the sick will be healed; the lonely befriended; the anxious comforted; Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

That the death of each person we know will touch our heart and stir us to live more fully each day; Lord...

Keep us watchful. Keep us alert.

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from book of the prophet Isaiah

You, LORD, are our father,
our redeemer you are named forever.

Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways,
and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
with the mountains quaking before you,
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for,
such as they had not heard of from of old.

No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you
doing such deeds for those who wait for him.

Would that you might meet us doing right,
that we were mindful of you in our ways!

Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;
all of us have become like unclean people...
...and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

There is none who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to cling to you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us up to our guilt.

Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.*

*It is like a man traveling abroad.
He leaves home and places his servants in charge,
each with his own work,
and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.*

*Watch, therefore;
you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming,
whether in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.
May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.*

What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ