First Sunday of Advent



Wake up! Wake up before death wakes you up. In a less dramatic expression that's a virtual leitmotif in the Gospels. Jesus is always telling us to wake up, to stay awake, to be vigilant, to be more alert to a deeper reality. What's meant by that? How are we asleep to depth? How are we to wake up and stay awake?

How are we asleep? All of us know how difficult it is for us to be inside the present moment, to not be asleep to the real riches inside our own lives. The distractions and worries of daily life tend to so consume us that we habitually take for granted what's most precious to us, our health, the miracle of our senses, the love and friendships that surround us, and the gift of life itself. We go through our daily lives not only with a lack of reflectiveness and lack of gratitude but with a habitual touch of resentment as well, a chronic, grey depression, Robert Moore calls it. We are very much asleep, both to God and to our own lives.

How do we wake up? Today there's a rich literature that offers us all kinds of advice on how to get into the present moment so as to be awake to the deep riches inside our own lives. While much of this literature is good, little of it is very effective. It invites us to live each day of our lives as if was our last day, but we simply can't do that. It's impossible to sustain that kind of intentionality and awareness over a long period of time. An awareness of our mortality does wake us up, as does a stroke, a heart attack, or cancer; but that heightened-awareness is easier to sustain for a short season of our lives than it is for twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty years. Nobody can sustain that kind of awareness all the time. None of us can live seventy or eighty years as if each day was his or her last day. Or can we?

Spiritual wisdom offers a nuanced answer here: We can and we can't! On the one hand, the distractions, cares, and pressures of everyday life will invariably have their way with us and we will in effect, fall asleep to what's deeper and more important inside of life.

But it's for this reason that every major spiritual tradition has daily rituals designed precisely to wake us from spiritual sleep, akin an alarm clock waking us from physical sleep.

It's for this reason we need to begin each day with prayer. What happens if we don't pray on a given morning is not that we incur God's wrath, but rather that we tend to miss the morning, spending the hours until noon trapped inside a certain dullness of heart.

The same can be said about praying before meals. We don't displease God by not first centering ourselves in gratitude before eating, but we miss out on the richness of what we're doing. Liturgical prayer and the Eucharist have the same intent, among their other intentions. They're meant to call us, regularly, out of a certain sleep.

None of us lives each day of our lives as if it was his or her last day. Our heartaches, headaches, distractions, and busyness invariably lull us to sleep. That's forgivable; it's what it means to be human. So we should ensure that we have regular spiritual rituals, spiritual alarm clocks, to jolt us back awake so that it doesn't take a heart attack, a stroke, cancer, or death to wake us up.

As we gather, let us remember and pray for . . .

Monday, November 30 *St. Andrew the Apostle*
(8:25 a.m. rosary)
9:00 a.m. †Holy Souls & Annina Armenti

Tuesday, December 1
(8:25 a.m. rosary)
9:00 a.m. †Albert Moccio

Wednesday, December 2
(8:25 a.m. rosary)
9:00 a.m. ♦Special Intention Kira Lococo

Thursday, December 3 *St. Francis Xavier*
(8:25 a.m. rosary)
9:00 a.m. †Maria & Giovanni Ionno & deceased families

Friday, December 4 *St. John Damascene*
(8:25 *a.m. rosary)*
9:00 a.m. †Walter & Fatimia Rodrigues

Saturday, December 5
4:30 p.m. †David, Julio, Antonia Lucero, Mari Luz Palma & Erik Esobar

Sunday, December 6 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
9:00 a.m. ♦ People of the parish
11:00 a.m. †Zandra Baptista
5:00 p.m. †Gloria Escat

Prayer Intention for the Month of November:
For the proper use of wealth: Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

IMPORTANT
PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

Please be advised that the parish has a new email address. Effective immediately, all future correspondence should be sent to: stthomasmore@saintcd.com
We kindly ask parishioners to update their contact information and use this new email address for all future communications. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Christmas Cards 8 Designs
12 cards per box $15 per box

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 17273 at ST. THOMAS MORE will have a limited number of "Keep Christ in Christmas" lawn signs for sale for $10 after all masses on Dec 05/06. Let us proclaim that Jesus is the reason for the season.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 17273
at **ST. THOMAS MORE**
are pleased to bring two contests this Christmas season as part of "Keep Christ in Christmas"

Nativity Scene/Set Contest
Send a picture of your Nativity Scene/Set
Advent Wreath Contest
Send a picture of your Advent Wreath.

Prizes will be awarded for winning entries.
Email to: kofc17273events@gmail.com
Kindly include your name and contact number.
Deadline: Dec 31, 2026 Winners will be announced by Jan 15, 2027

UPCOMING CWL EVENTS
Dec. 8 – CWL Christmas Party at The Kasbah Restaurant, 5:30-8:30 p.m. rsvp.
Dec. 13 – St. Thomas More CWL 70th Anniversary Mass at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Sharon Angotti at 905-356-8431 or sharon.angotti.cwl@gmail.com.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!
Sunday Collection
November 22 $6,277



ST. THOMAS MORE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY

The Children's Liturgy Team will be organizing a children's performance before the 4:30 Mass on Christmas Eve. This is open to children ages 4 and up. Practices will start in mid November. We are also looking for student and adult volunteers. To register please contact Anna Racine at 905-358-3412 or email rracine37@cogeco.ca

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ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!

Envelopes for 2027 are now available for pickup in the front foyer. Please take a moment to collect yours as soon as possible.



MPORTANT NOTICE

Please be advised that tables already set up in the foyers are not to be moved, rearranged, or used by any ministry without prior approval from the Pastor.
These tables have been arranged for specific purposes, and we ask that everyone respect the setup.
If you require the use of a table or wish to make any changes, please seek the Pastor's approval first.
Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and respect for our church facilities.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIIP

First Sunday in December 6 after all Masses St. Vincent de Paul will hosts a family Coffee social in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!



Memorial Donations
Christmas Poinsettias & Flowers

Help decorate the church for the Christmas season
$20 memorial donation; please use first and last name of the intention clearly printed,
must be submitted by December 20
to be published in the Christmas bulletin.
Attach a cheque or cash to this slip, and place in the collection, to be published in the bulletin.

In memory of:

_____

_____

given by: _____

envelope #

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY