



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	Stay alert, salvation is coming
Monday	Matthew 24:1-14	Don't be deceived
Tuesday	Matthew 24:23-35	The end is coming
Wednesday	Matthew 24:45-51	The faithful servant
Thursday	Luke 17:22-37	The coming of the Son of Man
Friday	Joel 3:14-21	The day of the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 124	We have escaped like a bird
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:**

Always be ready! You don't know when the Son of Man will come." *Matthew 24:44 (CEV)*

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord God, keep us awake in our faith, alert and ready to do what is right. Amen.

**Advent Mealtime Prayer:**

Bless our table, gracious God, and all who sit at it. As we wait for Jesus' return, give us the gift of sharing with others. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Jesus be as near to you as your clothes. May he help you live in good ways and keep you awake in faith. Amen.



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**CARING CONVERSATION:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time you overslept. What happened?
- Jesus asks his followers to “keep watch” as he could return at any time (Matthew 24:42). What does it mean to “keep watch” for Jesus?

**DEVOTIONS:**

Set up an Advent wreath to use in your home. An Advent wreath contains 5 candles: 4 in a circle and 1 in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God, and the 4 candles are usually blue or purple. The center candle is usually white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In the first week of Advent light the first candle and say these words:

Say: This is the first week of Advent. Advent means “coming”. We are waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of waiting. *(The candle is lit).*

Read: *Read one of the following passages: Psalm 27:14; Psalm 33:20; Isaiah 51:5; Isaiah 64:4; Lamentations 3:25-26; Micah 7:7.*

Pray: Pray the prayer of the week or make up your own.

**SERVICE:**

Bake Christmas cookies together to give away to friends and neighbors.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:**

Make a paper chain with a link for each day of December up to Christmas Day (suggestions below). Remove a link each day and do what it says:

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| • Share: “What gives you peace?”       | • Make a special Christmas card for someone. |
| • Share: “What gives you joy?”         | • Read Isaiah 7:14.                          |
| • Share: “What gives you hope?”        | • Sing another Christmas carol.              |
| • Compliment the people you see.       | • Do an act of service for another.          |
| • Read Jeremiah 33:14-16.              | • Share a Christmas food.                    |
| • Share hugs with one another.         | • Read Isaiah 9:6-7.                         |
| • Share good Christmas memories.       | • Go for a walk together.                    |
| • Read Isaiah 11:1-3.                  | • Draw a Christmas picture together.         |
| • Play a game together.                | • Read Luke 1:26-38.                         |
| • Sing a Christmas carol.              | • Read Matthew 1:18-24.                      |
| • Share what you like about Christmas. | • Read Luke 2:1-7                            |
| • Read Micah 5:2-4.                    |  |
| • Tell the nativity story.             |  |

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