

Bulletin Shorts for Year B – 2021

Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief

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Advent

This Bulletin Shorts Series began in 2016 during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Now, in this sixth year, it still aims to help the faithful and catechumens delve into the Sunday Scriptures and wrestle with Christian life. The hope is to rest more and more in God's grace and act in more merciful ways. The style is mystagogical.

Use these shorts with your diocese, parish, ministry, and friends. Put in the mail, post on the website, print in bulletin or newsletter, and share in other helpful ways. They are a gift. They are also posted on some diocesan worship office web pages. Here are two direct links:

- ◇ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois: <http://www.dio.org/worship/liturgical-year.html>
- ◇ Diocese of Belleville: <https://dps.diobelle.org/offices/worship/seasonal-recources>
- ◇ Eliot Kapitan, Springfield, Illinois USA – ekapitan89@gmail.com

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY ◇ Feed the hungry ◇ Give drink to the thirsty ◇ Shelter the homeless ◇ Clothe the naked ◇ Visit the sick ◇ Visit the prisoners ◇ Bury the dead ◇ Give alms to the poor ◇ Care of our Common Home ◇ **SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY** ◇ Counseling the doubtful ◇ Instructing the ignorant ◇ Admonishing the sinner ◇ Comforting the sorrowful ◇ Forgiving injuries ◇ Bearing wrongs patiently ◇ Praying for the living and the dead ◇ Caring for our Common Home ◇

Bulletin Shorts for Advent in Year B – 2021

First Sunday of Advent – 29 November 2020

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7. Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. 1 Corinthians 1:3-9. Mark 13:33-37.

Be Alert! Watch! We begin this new liturgical year as the old one ends: alert, on the watch, looking to the end time (that is, the return of Jesus Christ) while still living in this middle time of grace. In our watching, we make the words at the center of the Isaiah reading our own: “Would that you might meet us doing right.” Let us be faithful gatekeepers – of our thoughts and of our acts – actively looking for the face of the Lord.

- ◇ How will I maintain hope as I wait for Jesus Christ?
- ◇ What will I say?
- ◇ What will I do? The Works of Mercy can be a start.

Second Sunday of Advent – 06 December 2020

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11. Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14. 2 Peter 3:8-14. Mark 1:1-8.

What Sort of Persons? In this Advent time of looking to the future while living in the now, Saint Peter's question is the right one: “What sort of person ought you to be?” Saint John the Baptist offers a good response and better example. He is not full of himself. He knows his minor place. He points to the One who is both with us now and is also coming.

- ◇ How will my waiting on the Lord make me more humble?

- ◆ What full-of-myself behaviors can I change, can I let go?
- ◆ Works of Mercy take the focus off me for the benefit of another. What will I do?

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity – Tuesday, 08 December 2020
Patronal Feastday of the United States of America**

Genesis 3:9-15, 20. Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4. Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12. Luke 1:26-38.

The Lord is with You. The Lord is not just with Mary. That same God is also with us. Thus, also with me. For, as Saint Paul says, God chose us in Christ to be holy [too].

- ◆ How will I choose to be holy this day? This week? This Advent?

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast – Saturday, 12 December 2020

Zechariah 2:14-17. **OR** Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab. Judith 13:18bcde, 19. Luke 1:26-38. **OR**
Luke 1:39-47.

Being Blessed. This holy Mary, the patroness of the Americas, is blest because she believed. And she acted on the belief that what God said would indeed happen.

- ◆ In whom will I believe? And how will I act today because of it?

Third Sunday of Advent – 13 December 2020

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11. Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Who Am I? As we long for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, let our Advent be perfectly holy. To help us, Saint Paul reminds us of these basic Christian attitudes: (1) rejoice always, (2) pray without ceasing, and (3) always give thanks.

- ◆ In whom or in what will I rejoice this week?
- ◆ How will I pray every day this week?
- ◆ For whom and for what am I thankful? What will I do because of this thanksgiving?

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20 December 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16. Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29. Romans 16:25-27. Luke 1:26-38.

How Can This Be? Words of a visiting angel: Do not be afraid; God has this plan; you are full of grace. Mary speaks aloud what we all are thinking: “How can this be?” God makes it possible because God makes us holy!

- ◆ What should I stop fearing?
- ◆ What is God’s plan for me just for this day?
- ◆ What will I do this week as God’s holy person that benefits someone else?