

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle A (November 27, 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Isaiah 2:** They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

**Psalms 122:** May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.

**Romans 13:** It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

**Matthew 24:** So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Today we begin Advent, the season of waiting, hope and expectation. Isaiah predicts a time when the world will be at peace. God is present in the temple at Jerusalem and will gather the people of all nations and teach them the Torah, the way to peace. And Paul counsels the Romans to live upright lives as readiness for the coming of Christ.

In the gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to wait mindfully, not just going about their daily business but watching constantly for signs of Christ's appearance. The two men and two women symbolize the contrast between those who have prepared themselves for Christ's coming and those who have not.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis points out that the degradation of our planet includes extensive pollution of our land, air, and water necessary for human and other life. Human-caused climate change is bringing more drought and wildfires, floods and famine, and even the extinction of entire species. It also leads to mass migrations and wars over increasingly scarce resources.

In light of all this, we might spend Advent being awake to all the ways that God is present to us every day. This will, by God's grace, lead us to live a truly Christian life that helps prepare us for eternal life, while contributing to a more peaceful and just world.

#### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars ... War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons. (57)

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste, and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. (161)

The principle of the maximization of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy. As long as production is increased, little concern is given to whether it is at the cost of future resources or the health of the environment; as long as the clearing of a forest increases production, no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. (195)

Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around them. This too affects how they treat the environment. An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation. (225)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we may cultivate a peaceful life that benefits ourselves, our neighbors, and the world, let us pray to the Lord ...

**Option 2:** That we be more aware of the ways that God is present to us every day, particular through His creation, let us pray to the Lord ...

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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