Integral Faith

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

Catholic Climate Covenant
Together for our Common Home

Homily Helps and Petitions for First Sunday of Advent, Cycle B, Nov. 29, 2026

Homily Helps

† **Scripture Passages to Note:**

Isaiah 63: Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

1 Corinthians 1: God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13: He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work.

† **Comments for the Day:**

"Be constantly on the watch! Be alert!" Advent is the season during which we are asked to be on guard, to be watchful.

The question posed in today's gospel passage is: Will we be attentive enough to recognize God's presence in our midst? The invitation and challenge of the season is to overcome the temptation to be indifferent to waste the opportunity to develop habits more respectful of the sacred partnership we have entered into as God's people.

Indeed, God is certainly present in the universe formed as though clay in the hands of an artist. We may find it somewhat less challenging to recognize God's presence in the saints, particularly in Mary whose Immaculate Conception is celebrated this week. And the season of Advent provides the opportunity to discover and acknowledge the hand of God in all creation: in each of us and also in nature itself.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'*: "The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she ethers into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures." (240)

These weeks ahead are a time to develop new habits in appreciation of the gift which is cause for great joy and celebration. We have time to understand ourselves more fully as coworkers with God in making this planet a better place for all to live. That involves a deep conversion which encompasses dying to the habit of overconsumption and waste, while opening ourselves to a different lifestyle – one that recognizes God's presence and respects that presence in all people, and also cares for our common home.

As coworkers with Christ, we have been charged to build up the reign of God, each with our

own task according to the gifts we have received. Each of us in need of one another, so that all together we might learn to reduce, reuse, and recycle that which has been placed in our care.

In his new apostolic exhortation, *Laudate Deum* ("Praise God"), Pope Francis reminds us that, "When human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies." (73) May this special season of Advent help us prepare to recognize, appreciate, and care for the extraordinary gift which God bestows on us in Christ.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

(Earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. (2)

Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation. (4)

God has entrusted the world to us men and women… Accordingly, our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God's original gift of all that is. (5)

The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves. (6)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That this Advent season be a time of appreciating God's presence and grace in ourselves, in the people around us, and in our world, let us pray to the Lord …

Option 2: That we might become more aware of our sacred partnership with the creator of our common home, and be ever more caring and careful of the gifts He has given, let us pray to the Lord …

Further Resources

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