



Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 2:1–5

Rom 13:11–14

Mt 24:37–44

Piece: *Sleeping Servant*

Artist unknown; 1st century AD

Location: Vatican, Santa Rosa



Welcome!

My name is Fr. Mark Haydu, LC, and I am happy to accompany you at Mass over the next three liturgical years. I grew up in Akron, Ohio, and was ordained in 2007 as a priest of the Legionaries of Christ. As head of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums in Rome, I travel frequently to the United States to promote the collection. Sacred art has always been an essential element of prayer and liturgy, so it is a fitting enhancement to our Sunday celebrations.

Staying awake is a frequent and important Advent theme. Jesus mentions being awake in today's Gospel and again in Matthew 25:13 and 26:38. We are to ready ourselves to encounter him at our personal judgment and again in the Final Judgment. Like a watchman who stands over the city or a guard who protects the entry gate, we are to be vigilant, "For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

In ancient times, it was common to have a servant posted at the door to

protect you through the night and to watch over the house in your absence. Today's sculpture, which is part of an ancient tombstone, depicts such a servant—albeit one who dozed off.

For Reflection

What can I do to prepare myself and my family for Christ's coming on Christmas, in the Eucharist, and at any other time in our lives?

Begin your Advent preparations by receiving Christ in the Eucharist, "For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Jesus is not far away but very near. He enters our hearts in the form of bread and wine. Are you ready, or will he catch you by surprise?

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

"And do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11).