

# Monday Ministry Update *December 2nd, 2019*

- Each week this Advent there will be a Gospel reflection given by one of the peer Ministers. Below is Emily's reflection on yesterday's Gospel:

Matthew 24:37-44

In this week's gospel, we hear about Jesus telling his disciples to be ready for when the Son of Man comes, for it could be at any moment. We must be prepared because he could come any day, a day that we would not expect. As we begin the season of advent, we are called to focus on the preparation for Jesus, which has two meanings. First, Jesus coming into the world for the very first time, all those years ago. We have to be ready for Christ being born and saving all of our lives, forever. Second, Jesus coming back down to earth. Not only do we need to be prepared for this event during Advent, but we need to be prepared every minute of our life. He could be coming tomorrow, in 1 year, or 100 years. Jesus is waiting for us, all of us, to choose and follow him, and once he sees we have accomplished that, he will come back down to earth. In today's world, it can be difficult to find time to really *think* about all Jesus did for us, but that problem can simply be solved: by taking a few minutes out of your day to pray. This week, I challenge you to find time every day, only a few minutes, to think about all we have been blessed with, and to thank Jesus for all he has given us. Can you change your viewpoint of what you've been blessed with?



- Last Wednesday we celebrated Thanksgiving with a prayer service. The prayer service included a reflection by Libby Kline which you can read [here](#) and a praise dance by some of our upper school students which will be shared in the coming days. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the service.

- Advent began yesterday. Think about what your family can do to celebrate this liturgical season. Check out this [Advent Calendar](#) for some ideas or consider praying [lectio divina](#) for each of the weeks.
- The Schools' Advent Liturgy is this Thursday, December 5th at 1:30 pm. Parents and families are invited to join us for all liturgies. This mass is being planned and served by the 5th grade.
- During the Advent season the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades will be putting together 180 meal bags for a nearby food pantry and soup kitchen. We are asking the following items to be donated in order to make the bags.
  - 1st grade- Fruit cups or applesauce
  - 2nd grade- granola bars, breakfast bar, or similar item
  - 3rd grade- loaf of sliced bread

Donations are due by December 13th. Families can also donate \$5 instead of the requested items well. We appreciate your support and we look forward to assembling the bags with the younger children. The rest of the school is welcomed to donate items as well.

- All parents are invited to join us for parents prayer every Friday that students are in school in the Parish Hall. Join us for prayer, fellowship, coffee, and light food from **8:15-9:15am!** If you cannot join us, please feel free to send your prayer requests to Mr. Cillo and we will be sure to pray for you and your needs.
- Please check the [spirituality tab](#) on the school website each month for up to date spirituality announcements. The website has been updated for the month of December.
- For parents looking to learn more about Salesian spirituality, please consider signing up for the weekly newsletter which is sent out every Thursday. You can sign up for it [here](#).
- **Service Opportunities!!!**
  - The Well Women's Shelter Meal- Families are needed to cook a meal large enough for 10 people for a local homeless shelter. The shelter is the only all women's shelter in the city and most of the women go on to find permanent housing. Meals are needed for the second Tuesday of each

month and can be dropped off at the school. Please see [The Well Flyer](#) . Classes or families could also work together to provide the various pieces of a complete meal. Thank you for the overwhelming support. We currently have families signed up through February. Given the support from all of you we can increase the frequency of meals as families volunteer. Please let Mr. Cillo know if you can provide a meal for any Tuesday that works best for you.

- Sandwich making at St. Bridget's in East Falls- **Saturday, December 7th 8:00-9:00am** Join us on the first Saturday of each month at St. Bridget's as we make sandwiches that will go to St. Francis' Inn in Kensington. This is a great service opportunity for young kids. No sign up is necessary. Just show up and meet Mr. Cillo in the parking lot by 8:05am. Sandwiches are made in the building to the left of the church. St. Bridget's offers this opportunity every week. Let Mr. Cillo know if you happen to go on your own. He would love to hear about your experience.
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society Visitation Day- Saturday, December 14th, 9:30-11:00am 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul society members to visit the elderly and homebound in our area. When they visit they bring flowers and cards made by the 3rd grade. Parents are invited to participate. [Visitation Day flyer](#). Please email Mr. Cillo or return the bottom portion of the flyer to sign up.
- If you have any ideas, concerns, suggestions, or feedback regarding the spiritual life and offerings of the school please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Cillo, the school minister, via email at [pcillo@omcschool.com](mailto:pcillo@omcschool.com)



*“Perfection does not lie in avoiding the world, but in not clinging to it.” St. Francis de Sales*