

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Reflection of the Week by Fr. Leo Ahanotu

Today, we enter the year B in the church calendar. It is also the first day of Advent when the Holy Mother Church encourages us to prepare ourselves with prayer, penance, acts of charity, and meditation on the meaning of Christ's coming into the world. It is a time to reflect on the twofold coming of Christ into the world.

First, we meditate on how the first coming of Christ re-introduces love, peace, and light into a world ravaged by disunity, wars, atheism, oppression, exploitation, and other kinds of evil. Given that Jesus comes into that world to be the light that shows us the proper way to live, we prepare to celebrate his birthday on Christmas day and rejoice over His coming into the world for the good and salvation of the world. By the way, he expects us to join Him to rescue the world from sin and suffering.

Second, Advent is also a time to reflect on Christ's other coming (the second coming) when we render an account of how His first coming helped us prepare for the final judgment. It is not surprising then that St. Paul reminds us in today's second reading that Christ's first coming was to enrich us with the grace and spiritual gifts that would help us to follow Him till the end of time when he comes back for judgment. Both Christ and Paul do not want us to be unprepared when the end of time comes.

Hence, Christ tells us in today's gospel to be awake all the time, for we know not the day or hour it will happen – the summary of today's gospel.

Why does Christ want us to stay awake all the time? When he comes for our final judgment, he wants us to be ready for a favorable judgment that will unite us forever with God in heaven. Pope Benedict XVI put it better by describing it as a continuous preparation for the readiness to enjoy an intimate union with God forever (Spe Salve, 2007). St Augustine used "our greatest hope" to describe this personal union with God forever, and it is the greatest hope of all Christians.

In his description of staying awake, St. Pope John Paul II reminds us to avoid satisfaction with mediocrity in our Christian life and our pursuit of holiness (Be not afraid, 1984). These include but are not limited to the following: continuous prayer with hope, confidence in prayer, observing Christ's precepts, and readiness to obey and trust God in good times and in bad times. Here, we need to remember St. Augustine's injunction that in all situations, even in our ugly moments, we still need to persevere and persist in living a good Christian life, for our earthly situations are momentary. The goods from the virtuous life are eternal. They instrumentalize our being with God forever.

In this period of advent, let us remember the call to welcome Jesus in our hearts, and allow his teachings to guide us till the end of time.

Very Rev. Fr. Leo Ahanotu

Our Spiritual Journey of Advent Begins This Weekend!

A season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy.

As you light your advent candles, may God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation—a time we joyfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

Breakfast and Birthday Cake this Sunday, Dec. 3, after 8:30 a.m. Mass to celebrate the birthdays of Dec.

Breakfast and Birthday Cake are served on the **first Sunday of each month.**

Visitors Welcome!

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass on Friday, Dec. 8th
6 p.m.— Wagoner
7:30 p.m. — Coweta**

O God, who by the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, didst prepare a worthy dwelling place for thy Son, we beseech thee that, as by the foreseen death of this, thy Son, thou didst preserve her from all stain, so too thou wouldst permit us, purified through her intercession, to come unto thee. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who lives and reigns with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

Jesus, I trust in You!

Weekly Reflection on Adoration

One day, Bishop F. Sheen went for adoration and fell asleep. "When I woke up I said to the good Lord, did I make a holy hour? My angel said, yes, that's the way the apostles prayed for the first time." At Gethsemane, Christ told the apostles to pray and keep watch with him so they would not fall into temptation. Tired, they fell asleep. Christ saw them and said, "Weren't you able to stay awake even for one hour?" Just like the apostles and Sheen, the intention for adoration is not to sleep, but if it happens, the Lord knows our genuine intention. Join us for adoration even if you are tired from work. God bless you!

Very Rev Leo Ahanotu

First Wednesday of Every Month

"Night of Encounter and Mercy"

Wed., Dec. 6th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Short Presentation followed by Adoration
Confessions also available

Mary & Martha (M&M) Society Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6:00 p.m.

All Women of the Parish Welcome!

**Please Join Us
for the Annual Christmas Party/Meeting**

Please Bring a Finger Food to Share & a wrapped (less than \$20) gift, if you wish to participate in the Dirty Santa Exchange

Dec 2 (Vigil)	Dec 3		Dec 9 (Vigil)	Dec 10
Laura Rodriguez Paul Rodriguez	Isaac, Abby, & Elizabeth	USHERS/GIFT BEARERS	Judy Helms Richard Helms	Heather Jordan Eric Jordan
Larry Chekofsky Matthew Higginbottom	Liam, Carlos, Makenna & Kay-	ALTAR SERVERS	Larry Chekofsky Matthew Higginbottom	Liam, Carlos, Makenna & Aceah
Kay R./Mary F.	Bille C./Mike H.	EUCCHARISTIC MIN	Dorene M./Mike M.	Chris H./Elaine H.
Judy Helms	Carlos Sorell Aceah Stuart	READERS	Paul Rodriguez	Emily Ledgerwood

Are you or do you know of someone that is considering joining the church? Or are you or someone you know Catholic and want to return to or learn more about the Catholic faith?

RCIA Classes

Each Thursday from 5-6:15 p.m.

Questions? Contact Dcn Jim (retired) at jandsruyle@gmail.com, 918-638-0605, for more information and to register.

Youth Faith Formation Classes

Each Sunday morning
following the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Beware of Scams!

We are all seeing an increase in the number of scams sent via email and text across the Diocese. This may increase with the holidays upon us. Please be mindful of all the messages you receive across the variety of digital platforms you use.

Be assured that the Bishop, nor any of the Diocese priests or deacons, will ever request donations or gift cards via email or text from their parishioners.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for

DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Happy Birthday!

Jan Martin 12/1	Claire Dufour 12/20
Judy Wright 12/2	Kenneth Herndon 12/20
Sandy Grace 12/3	
Joseph Kolb 12/3	Rosalina Empuerto 12/30
Hope Watson 12/4	
Matthew Wright 12/5	Charles Moe 12/31
Jane Duffy 12/7	Aceah Stuart 12/31
Anne Linz 12/7	

Amanda Mendick 12/10
Andrew Higginbottom 12/12



Offerings from Nov 25-26

General Collections	\$2,030.00
Capital Improvement	180.00
TOTAL	\$2,210.00

Daily Mass Readings—Dec 3-9*

Sunday	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Monday	Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text) also available on Holy Cross Website:

www.holycross-wagoner.org

To place information in the bulletin or on the church website, contact Karol Watson, karol_watson@yahoo.com or 918-640-5819

For issues/help with Flocknotes, contact Kay Rodriguez, msrod@sbcglobal.net or 405-659-0507

FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker
Judy Wright, parishioner
Becky Harding, parishioner
Hope Watson, parishioner
Lucille Dickinson, parishioner
John Spieker, husband of Jackie Spieker



WE PRAY TO THE LORD

Holy Cross Mission Statement/Prayer

Almighty God, the mission of Holy Cross Parish is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our community and the world. As your disciples, help us to touch the hearts of everyone in a way that enhances human spirituality and will bring all people into the fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

	<i>Altar Linens</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>
<i>Dec</i>	Carolyn Greer	Advent (no flowers)
<i>Jan</i>	Dorene McMahan	Poinsettias Bille Cummings

**Stay Connected — Stay Informed
with your Catholic Faith & your Holy Cross Family**

*Daily Readings, Daily Prayer of the Day, Bulletins,
Catholic & Holy Cross News/Events*

**www.holycross-wagoner.org,
Holy Cross Catholic Church - Wagoner OK (FB) &
[https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/
dashboard](https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/dashboard)**

Finding solutions for your financial need.



Seth A Yoder
Financial Advisor
114 East Cherokee
Wagoner, OK 74467
918-485-0992

Edward Jones
BROKER/DEALER IN SECURITIES
edwardjones.com

Holy Cross Catholic Church



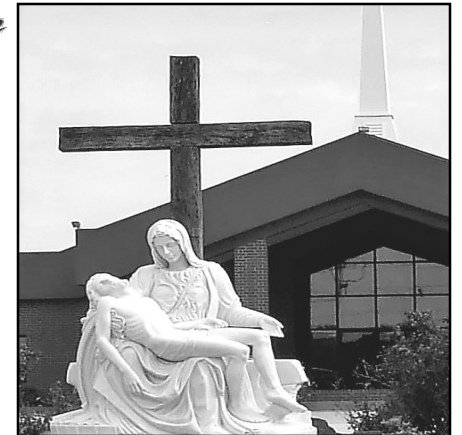
*Holiness - Disciples - Community
Wagoner, Oklahoma*

P.O. Box 710 / 708 SW 15TH ST.
539-209-9988

Email: holycrosswagoner@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.holycross-wagoner.org>

Facebook: Holy Cross Catholic Church—Wagoner, OK



December 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent

Pastor	Very Rev. Leo Ahanotu holycrosswagoner@gmail.com 539-209-9988
Visiting Priests	Fr. Gabriel Garcia fr.gabriel.garcia@dioceseoftulsa.org ; 918-836-2597 & Fr. Alessandro Calderoni fr.alessandro.calderoni@dioceseoftulsa.org ; 918-455-4551
Deacon	Dcn James Ruyle (Retired) jandsruyle@gmail.com 918-485-8228
Secretary	Earlyne Hutchens earlynehutchens@gmail.com 918-894-0474
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Parish Council	Karol Watson karol_watson@yahoo.com 918-640-5819
M&M Society	Sherri Moe smworks@hotmail.com 918-521-9127
Men's Group	Seth Yoder seth.yoder@edwardjones.com 918-869-9129

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 8:30 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays (Latin) — 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday & Friday — 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday — 8:30 a.m.

First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 a.m.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Fridays following 5:00 p.m. Mass

1st Wed. of the Month — 6:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before weekend Masses

Or by appointment/request

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

Breaking Bread Book
Pages 31-32

Vatican II Hymnal
Pages 376-377

