

THE SENTINEL'S SERVICE: A DEACON'S REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 | Theme: Stay awake – the Lord is near.



**NOAH'S DAYS:
SPIRITUAL SLUMBER**
(Consumed by Ordinary)

**ADVENT'S JOLT:
ALERT PREPARATION**
(Watchful & Hopeful)



**1. WATCHFULNESS
AT THE ALTAR**
(The Coming in Mystery)



**2. WATCHFULNESS
IN THE PARISH**
(The Coming in History)



**3. WATCHFULNESS
AT THE MARGINS**
(The Coming in Majesty)



Proclaiming the Word:
Deacon's first act of vigilance. Must be awake with the Word in prayer before proclaiming it as a wake-up call.



Preparing the Gifts:
Modeling watchful preparation for the Eucharist. Making the "house" ready for the Master.



The Dismissal: A commission, not a conclusion. Sending the people from the altar's watch to the world's watch to find the Lord.



The Homily as Watchtower: Watchman connecting the Gospel to daily anxieties (work, family), pointing out Christ's presence in ordinary life.



The Ministry of Charity: The heart of diakonia. Being the "eyes and ears" for the one "left behind" – the shut-in, struggling family, isolated immigrant.

"Who is being left, and how can I go to them?"



Unexpected Arrivals: Constant "staying awake" to Christ disguised in the "least of these" (Matthew 25).



Bridging Altar & Margins: Bringing needs to the altar, taking Eucharistic grace, counsel, and material aid to the sick and poor.



DEACON'S ACTIVE
MINISTRY OF
SERVICE

*"Be wakeful, O soul, and keep your lamp burning,
for the Bridegroom is at hand."
- St. Ephrem the Deacon*

POINTING WITH HOPE:
"Stay awake. Our Lord is near."