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PARISH NEWSLETTER
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Preparing For The Weekend Liturgy

Whether you are looking for homily suggestions or some ideas for prayer on the weekend readings before coming to church, the Internet can be a great resource. We all have our favorite sites. Over the last few years a constant companion of ours has been Creighton University's On Line Ministries: www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html.

In recent months we have discovered a new resource that incorporates the weekend reflections of Larry Gillick, SJ from the Creighton site, and a whole lot more. Check out <http://liturgy.slu.edu>, a service of the Center for Liturgy at St. Louis University.

For instance, the Sundays of Advent includes these helpful resources:

- Prayers about the readings, with the suggestion to take five to twenty minutes to pray one or more of the readings
- Spiritual Reflections that offer five different resources, including a poetic rendering of the psalm and "A Poem To Sit With"
- Looking More Closely at the Word (our favorite) that expands on the readings from various perspectives, including the historical/cultural context, thoughts from the early Church and "The Word Encountered" by John Kavanaugh, SJ
- Musical Ideas that provide suggestions for music from parishes across the country and ideas that fit a variety of congregational tastes
- General Intercessions for the Mass that cover both local and global issues

The site also includes a wide variety of links to other sources that help one prepare for the weekend liturgies and provide background information about liturgy in general.

For a long-range preparation of the gospel, look up www.saginawdiocese.org. It offers a short course on St. Mark's Gospel (Cycle B readings). It is an interactive website where viewers can add their own thoughts and ask questions. This resource includes background information on the setting of Mark's Gospel, the characteristics of Jesus in Mark, the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist, along with various interpretations and links to related sites.

What are your favorite websites as you prepare for the weekly celebration of Eucharist, or any other interesting sites, for that matter? Send them along and we will share them with others. Just click on "Reply" and add your suggestions.

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