

# MOVIES FOR ADVENT

## Week #1: It's A Wonderful Life



### Lectionary Readings

**Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44**

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. - **Matthew 24:42-44**



### Movie: It's A Wonderful Life (PG)

Synopsis: It's a Wonderful Life is a 1946 American Christmas fantasy drama film directed and produced by Frank Capra. The film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who has given up his personal dreams to help others in his community on Christmas Eve bring about the intervention of his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody.

**Available to rent or stream on Amazon Prime Video**



### Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. After viewing 'It's a Wonderful Life' what thoughts and impressions lingered after the credits rolled? Why?
2. From a cinematic perspective, what did you enjoy about the film? What worked for you? What didn't?
3. "Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" In what way does this quote encapsulate the themes of the film and the human experience?
4. The lectionary passages highlight the importance of remaining awake and attentive to the ever present Holy Spirit and the ongoing work of redemption and reconciliation as the body of Christ. What might the Spirit be nudging you to be intentionally attentive to in this season of Advent?



# MOVIES FOR ADVENT

## Week #2: Gran Torino



### Lectionary Readings

**Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matt 3:1-12**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. - **Romans 15:5-7**



### Movie: Gran Torino (R)

Synopsis: Gran Torino is a 2008 American-British drama film directed, produced by and starring Clint Eastwood.

Set in Highland Park, Michigan, the story follows Walt Kowalski (Eastwood), a recently widowed Korean War veteran alienated from his family who develops a relationship with his neighbour and and his Asian family, overcoming his personal prejudices.

**Available to rent on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Cineplex**



### Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. After viewing 'Gran Torino' what thoughts and impressions lingered after the credits rolled? Why?
2. From a cinematic perspective, what did you enjoy about the film? What worked for you? What didn't?
3. "I confess that I have no desire to confess." How does honest confession unlock the door to repentance for Walt Kowalski in the film? What factors impede/assist Walt's journey towards repentance?
4. The lectionary passages yearn for and celebrate justice, peace and a societal harmonious life that flourishes. What is hindering such peace and flourishing in your heart, community and world. How does ongoing confession/repentance keep us on the road to flourishing wholeness?



# MOVIES FOR ADVENT

## Week #3: The Mission



### Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10, Matt. 11:2-11

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. - **Psalm 146:3-7**



### Movie: The Mission (PG)

Synopsis: The Mission is a highly acclaimed 1986 British historical drama film starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons. about the experiences of a Jesuit missionary in 18th-century South America. **Available to rent on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Cineplex**



### Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. After viewing 'The Mission' what thoughts and impressions lingered after the credits rolled? Why?
2. From a cinematic perspective, what did you enjoy about the film? What worked for you? What didn't? What were the strengths and weaknesses of how indigenous people & culture were depicted?
3. "If might is right, then love has no place in the world. It may be so, it may be so. But I don't have the strength to live in a world like that". Discuss this quote in conversation with Mary's song of praise (Luke 1:46b-55)?
4. The lectionary passages highlight the upside-down nature of God's kingdom (kin-dom) in contrast to the economies of the kingdoms of the world. How does the incarnation of Jesus reveal the subversive love and beauty of God's kingdom? How does Jesus subvert Messianic expectations and what impact does this have on your life and faith?



# MOVIES FOR ADVENT

## Week #4: Children of Men



### Lectionary Readings

**Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matt. 1:18-25**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

- **Isaiah 7:14-16**



### Movie: Children of Men (R)

Synopsis: Children of Men is a 2006 dystopian action thriller film directed and co-written by Alfonso Cuarón, starring Clive Owen. The film is set in 2027, when two decades of human infertility have left human civilization on the brink of collapse.

**Available to rent on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Cineplex**



### Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. After viewing 'Children of Men' what thoughts and impressions lingered after the credits rolled? Why?
2. From a cinematic perspective, what did you enjoy about the film? What worked for you? What didn't? Children of Men is full of visual symbolism. Discuss the symbolism in the film.
3. Though nearly 20 years old, Children of Men has much to say about our world today. How does this movie relate to our world in 2025?e film
4. "It's hard to know what to do, isn't it? When faced with such hopelessness. But that's when you gotta dig deep and find a reason to carry on." Discuss the themes of hope and despair embedded in the film and how they connect with real life.
5. Children of Men parallels the Nativity story in many ways. Discuss the ways in which the film is inspired by and echoes aspects of the Nativity.

