

ADVENT RESOURCES

FOR THE DIOCESE OF OSSORY

FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT



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THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

SUGGESTION FOR ADVENT DAILY PRAYER FOR WEEK ONE

This week why not start or end your day with one of the following prayer phrases taken from the Scripture readings of the First Sunday of Advent!

- “To you O Lord I lift up my soul”
- “Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths”
- “God’s ways are faithfulness and love”
- “The Lord-our-integrity”
- “Come Lord Jesus”

THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1:

Lord, today we begin our time of preparation for the birthday of your Son. By sending Him among us. You have assured us that You are with us always.

(Dip a sprig or leaf into holy water and sprinkle over the wreath.)

Reader 2:

We bless this wreath. An endless circle of God's Presence.

An evergreen, ever-flesh outreach to us and all people. A Light to the World. May this wreath always speak to us of the presence of God in our lives. May we open ourselves to God all the days of our lives.

All: Amen



THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

SUGGESTION FOR ADVENT DAILY PRAYER FOR WEEK TWO

This week why not start or end your day with one of the following prayer phrases taken from the Scripture readings of the Second Sunday of Advent!

- “Put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of integrity around you.”
- “Prepare a way for the Lord, make straight a path. And all will see the salvation of God.”
- “God will guide us in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and integrity for escort.”
- “What marvels the Lord has worked for us! Indeed we are glad.”
- “Come Lord Jesus”



THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Reader 1:

Today we continue our reflection on ways that we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Is Christmas just about getting presents? Is it just about decorating our homes and Christmas trees and having relatives around to visit? What exactly are we celebrating?

Reader 2:

We do all these special activities because of the coming of Jesus. Jesus is the greatest gift God could ever have given us. So our presents this year, our decorations, our parties and gatherings, should all remind us that Jesus is among us. Jesus is always with us!

(Light the second purple candle on the Advent Wreath)

Reader 1:

Lord, may the light of this wreath be a sign of hope to us all as we prepare for your coming. Help us to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas, May we always be aware of your presence in our lives - the presence of your spirit within us, prompting us, sustaining us, working through us, waiting for us.

All: Amen.

Hymn: Here I am Lord.

Reader 2: Scripture

“A voice cries out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way for the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill made low;
The uneven ground shall become level,

And the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all people shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

[Is. 40:3-51

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

SUGGESTION FOR ADVENT DAILY PRAYER FOR WEEK THREE

This week why not start or end your day with one of the following prayer phrases taken from the Scripture readings of the Third Sunday of Advent!

- “Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.”
- “May that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, guard our hearts and our thoughts, in Christ Jesus.”
- “The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me; he has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.”
- “Come Lord Jesus”



THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Reader 1:

Lord, your promise to us is one of joy and hope. During this season of Advent, we await your coming with joyful hearts, grateful for all the gifts you have given us.

(Light the third purple candle on the Advent Wreath)

Reader 2:

May this light remind us of Jesus, Who is the true Light of the World.

Reader 3: Scripture

“The glory of the Lord is shining on you!

‘Though the night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

But on you the light of the Lord will shine;

The brightness of His presence will be with you.” [Is. 60: 1 - 2]

Hymn: The Clouds Veil (L. Lawton)

Reader 1:

Advent, however, is a time for more than waiting. It is also a time for action. We should remember how lucky we are in many ways, and of the need for us to help others, less fortunate people.

Reader 2: Reflection by Oscar Romero

No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need for God - for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God

Prayers of the Faithful

1) We pray for all families, that they may remember to appreciate each other this Christmas.

Lord hear our prayer

2) We pray for all new born babies, that they may grow up knowing that they are loved by you,

Lord hear our prayer

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

3) We pray for people who won't have very much this Christmas.
Help us to show them that we care,
Lord hear our prayer

4) We pray for people who won't be with us this Christmas. Bring
your peace to all people who will miss somebody this Christmas
Lord hear our prayer

5) We pray for all people who show your love to us, help them to
always teach by their actions.
Lord hear our prayer

6) We pray that we may remember to share all that God has
entrusted to us,
Lord hear our prayer

Reflection

The story is told of a lion cub that got lost in the forest, A sheep found him, and brought him up with her lambs, For a long time he had no idea that he was anything else but a sheep, If he saw a wolf or a dog he fled for his life. But one day a lion's roar echoed through the hills. The cub pricked up his ears. Some chord awoke in his nature that had never been touched before... He found that he could roar too, he felt that he had it in him to become king of the forest. Now if he saw a dog or a wolf, it was he who chased and they who fled. So long as he thought himself a sheep, he behaved like a sheep, As soon as he discovered that he was a lion he behaved like a king.

We are called to be children of God, to be people of hope, joy and expectation. The seed sown in darkness will put down strong roots until the moment of readiness which the soil will give way to the light of a new dawn, where the natural goodness of creation will strengthen it to face the elements, So too with us. God's word is planted in our hearts. It will rest silently in the darkness waiting patiently to come to light in our world.

Concluding Prayer

God our father, we are part of your family, We are part of the story of Christianity. As we come closer to Christmas help us to be good to all. Let us take example from mothers getting ready for the birth of their babies, How do they prepare? Help us to prepare for this Christmas with our acts of love and our thoughts.

Closing Hymn: Here I am Lord.

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

SUGGESTION FOR ADVENT DAILY PRAYER FOR WEEK FOUR

This week why not start or end your day with one of the following prayer phrases taken from the O Antiphons of 17th-24th December!

- “Wisdom of the Most high, come and teach us the way of truth”
- “Ruler of the House of Israel, come and save us with outstretched arm”
- “Root of Jesse, come to save us, and delay no more”
- “Emmanuel our king and lawgiver, come and save us”
- “Key of David, come to liberate from prison the captive who lives in darkness”
- “King of the people’s and corner-stone of the Church, come and save us”
- “Morning star, sun of justice, come and enlighten those who live in darkness”

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Theme: God's Gift

Sing: "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Reading

First reader: We have gathered together today to light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. But before we do let's relight the other three candles and be reminded of each message.

First child: (Relight first candle.) On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle to remind us to get our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus.

Second child: (Relight second candle.) On the second Sunday we lit the candle of love.

Another child: (Relight third candle.) We lit the third candle to remind us that the angels sang "news of great joy."

First reader: Today's candle makes the whole wreath bright. This candle reminds us of the giving part of Christmas.

Second reader: God has given us many gifts. Sometimes we try to count our blessings and the list is always long. But of all His gifts, none is greater than the gift of His Son Jesus. In giving us His Son He gave us himself.



THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Another family member: (Light the fourth candle.) I light this candle on the fourth Sunday in Advent to remind us of God's gift.

First reader: 2 Corinthians 4:6: "God, who first ordered light to shine in darkness, has flooded our hearts with his light. We now can enlighten men only because we can give them knowledge of the glory of God, as we see it in the face of Jesus Christ" (Phillips). Talk about love turning into a specific person — Christ, the gift, expresses himself in love. What can we give Him? Find ways to give ourselves with our gifts.

Sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem," paying special attention to verse three.

Prayer time: Ask God to help you understand real giving, which is the gift of yourselves. Offer to be available as a package to be given again and again wherever He needs you in His service.

Thought for the days between now and Christmas: "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23, KJV). While we are wrapping gifts, let us remember God's gift to us.



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