

Advent 2024



Daily Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As we make the Sign of the Cross, the leader says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.

A song may be sung as the candle is lighted
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Scripture Reading (see Daily Readings for Advent)

A reflection may be shared about the Reading.

Concluding Prayer:

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

As we make the Sign of the Cross, we say:
May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us everlasting life.
R/. Amen.

Daily Readings for Advent

*"Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet,
a light for my path." - Psalm 119:105*

FIRST WEEK

<i>Sunday</i>	Luke 21:25-28, 34-36
<i>Monday</i>	Isaiah 2:1-5
<i>Tuesday</i>	Psalm 72
<i>Wednesday</i>	Isaiah 25:6-10
<i>Thursday</i>	Matthew 7:21-27
<i>Friday</i>	Psalm 27
<i>Saturday</i>	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

SECOND WEEK

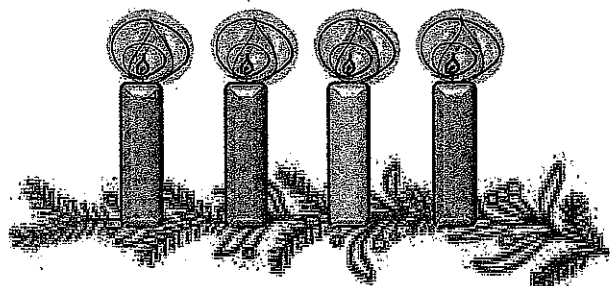
<i>Sunday</i>	Philippians 1:4-11
<i>Monday</i>	Psalm 85
<i>Tuesday</i>	Luke 1:26-38
<i>Wednesday</i>	Zechariah 2:14-17
<i>Thursday</i>	Psalm 145
<i>Friday</i>	Matthew 11:16-19
<i>Saturday</i>	Sirach 48:1-11

THIRD WEEK

<i>Sunday</i>	Zephaniah 3:14-18
<i>Monday</i>	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17
<i>Tuesday</i>	Genesis 49:2, 8-10
<i>Wednesday</i>	Jeremiah 23:5-8
<i>Thursday</i>	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
<i>Friday</i>	Isaiah 7:10-14
<i>Saturday</i>	Song of Songs 2:8-14

FOURTH WEEK

<i>Sunday</i>	Micah 5:1-4
<i>Monday</i>	Luke 1:57-66
<i>Tuesday</i>	Psalm 89



Prayer to Mary, Star of Hope

(Composed by Pope Benedict XVI)

Teach us, Mary, to believe, to hope, to love with you; show us the way that leads to peace, the way to the Kingdom of Jesus. You, Star of Hope, who wait for us anxiously in the everlasting light of the eternal Homeland, shine upon us and guide us through daily events, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Saint Joseph and Advent

(Father Anthony J. Rice, S.J.C)

During Advent and Christmas we have the opportunity to increase our love and devotion to St. Joseph by meditating on his 7 Sorrows and Joys. The first sorrow and joy: The doubt of St. Joseph/The message of the angel. The second sorrow and joy: The poverty of Jesus' birth/The birth of the Savior. The third sorrow and joy: The Circumcision/The Holy Name of Jesus. The fourth sorrow and joy: The prophecy of Simeon/The effects of the Redemption. The fifth sorrow and joy: The flight into Egypt/The overthrow of the idols of Egypt. The sixth sorrow and joy: The return from Egypt/Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth. The seventh sorrow and joy: The loss of the Child Jesus/The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. Reading the Gospel accounts from St. Matthew and St. Luke will show the important and essential role of St. Joseph in the events of the early life of Christ. As the Head of the Holy Family, Joseph fulfilled his duties and was present at all of these events. What kind of father would he have been if he were not present and if he would not have done what a father is supposed to do? God would not have chosen a man to be the Head of the Holy Family who would neglect or evade his responsibilities and duties.

In these days of Advent, let us be more like Joseph by imitating his humility and by our submission to and acceptance of God's most holy will. In doing so we will have true peace and joy. As the Nativity of Our Lord approaches, St. Joseph asks us to be simple and humble in our contemplation of Mary and Christ. And if we stay close to St. Joseph he will help us to contemplate this tremendous, marvelous mystery of which he was a silent witness and to gaze lovingly at Mary as she holds in her arms the Son of God made man. In whatever need we have, the Holy Patriarch Joseph, will hear our prayers. Let us ask him to make us simple and pure of heart so that we will know how to show our love for Christ as he did.

An Advent Examination of Conscience Based on the Advent "O" Antiphons

- Jesus is the Wisdom of God Most High: *Have I permitted the teachings of Christ to guide my daily life? Have I studied the Word of God and listened attentively to the Scripture Readings? Have I permitted my mind, my attitude, my thinking to be renewed by Christ?*
- Jesus is the Lord: *Have I followed the Ten Commandments faithfully? Do I love God above all else? Have I put false gods before my true Lord and God?*
- Jesus is the Root of Jesse's Stem: *Is my life rooted in Christ? Do my daily actions reflect my relationship with Christ? Do I put my hope and trust in God's promises and His will for my life? Do I rely too heavily on my own strength?*
- Jesus is the Key of David: *Do I make regular use of the Sacrament of Penance? Am I enslaved to sins or habits from which I need freed? Do I live as a worthy member of the Kingdom of God? Do I believe firmly that Jesus is the key that opens for me the gates of heaven?*
- Jesus is the Radiant Dawn and Sun of Justice: *Do I live as a child of the light? Do my outward actions and words reflect my true self? Am I a person of peace and goodwill? Do others see Christ reflected in my words and actions?*
- Jesus is the King of all nations and Keystone of the Church: *Do I proudly live out my faith in all that I say and do? Do I invite others to know Christ and to come to the Church? Am I faithful to my commitments to the Church and my parish family? Do I strive to know and understand the teachings of Christ as handed on to me by the Church?*
- Jesus is Emmanuel: *Am I aware and grateful for God's presence and action in my life? Do I raise up my thoughts to the Lord throughout my daily work? Do I reverence Christ truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament? Do I find Christ present in the needs of the poor and the marginalized?*

