

POPE FRANCIS

Living ADVENT
with

Joy & Peace

ENCOURAGEMENT
& DAILY PRAYERS

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Creative Communications
Sample

Once again we mark the arrival of Advent. This holy season trumpets God's extravagant love for us, a love beyond reckoning. Into our beautiful yet wounded world comes Emmanuel, God-with-us, carrying the promise of fresh hope to enliven our hearts. No matter how broken or seemingly hopeless our world may sometimes seem, the Advent messages are rich with joyous expectation and longing, insisting that God can and does bring forth life where none seems possible.

This divine perspective is echoed in word and action by Pope Francis as he reaches out to those who are poor and vulnerable and as he faithfully fosters an image of God marked by tenderness and welcome. In these pages we join the words of Pope Francis and the richness of the Advent readings with a prayer for each day of the season. Let us again make ready our hearts for the peace and joy that is the coming of Emmanuel.

—Sr. Chris Koellhoffer

Serving Others

We see so much poverty and loneliness in today's world! So many people live in great suffering and ask the Church to be a sign of the closeness, of the goodness, of the solidarity and of the mercy of the Lord.

REMARKS TO PASTORAL WORKERS, 9/19/14

Emmanuel, God-with-us, today I enter this holy season, remembering how you embraced and continue to embrace both the wounds and the hopes of our human family. May I live this day and all the days of Advent mirroring the witness of your life. May I know your nearness, prepare for your coming and embody the tenderness and care that are clear signs of your presence among us. Amen. May it be so!

READ LUKE 21:25-28

Monday

To qualify a Christian community on this, we have to ask about the attitude of the Christians. Are they meek, humble? Do they vie for power between each other in that community? Are there envious quarrels? Is there gossip?

HOMILY, 4/29/14

Emmanuel, God-with us, what I am is nothing less than chosen and beloved by you. And not only am I so cherished, but so is all that you have imagined, created and shaped by the outpouring of your love. Curb my inclination to rush to judgment. Loosen my grip on my desire for prestige and my tendency to compare and find fault. May others find in me a refuge and a shelter. Amen. May it be so!

READ MATTHEW 8:5-11

FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

Tuesday

Redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Take care of the neighbor: the sick, the poor, the needy, the ignorant. This is the yardstick.

HOMILY, 3/18/14

Emmanuel, God-with us, the equation is really quite simple, isn't it? How have I filled up the places of lack? How have I listened to the voices of those our world dismisses, ignores, excludes? How have I reached out in tenderness and compassion to you, the dear neighbor? I'm quite good at counting and calculating in other areas of my life, but this is the yardstick I hope to measure up to with your grace. In this, may I excel. Amen. May it be so!

READ ISAIAH 11:1-5

Wednesday

Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others.

HOMILY, 3/5/14

Emmanuel, God-with-us, the crowds never stopped coming and you never stopped giving: bread and fish, a listening ear, an attentive presence that restored healing and hope. Surely you must have been weary. Surely you must have longed for silence, solitude, time away. May I follow your example and not give in to hoarding that which I hold most closely, that which I want to keep for myself. Amen. May it be so!

READ MATTHEW 15:29-37

“ DID YOU HEAR WHAT POPE FRANCIS SAID THE OTHER DAY? ”

Since his election during Lent of 2013, a great many conversations have begun in just that way. Pope Francis has had a lot to say, and much of it has been a challenge to our ordinary ways of thinking and acting. His most challenging words, however, echo those of Jesus himself, the One who asks, or rather commands, that we love God first and then love our neighbors as ourselves. Pope Francis' words in the booklet are a starting point for prayer. Each day includes a suggested Scripture reading, most of them from the day's Mass.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on
nook and **amazonkindle**
by Barnes & Noble

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