

POPE FRANCIS

*Mercy* from  
the  
Manger

ENCOURAGEMENT  
& DAILY PRAYERS  
FOR ADVENT

Creative  
Communications  
Sample



## *Introduction*

Mercy never ends.

Oh sure, the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is complete. But as Pope Francis said in announcing the year, “We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it.”

In Advent, we too often replace joy, serenity, and peace with frustration, stress, and worry. Let’s change that this year. Consider this booklet your personal Advent calendar. Give yourself the gift of 10 minutes each day to consider what Pope Francis had to say about mercy...to read a bit of relevant Scripture...and to pray. My prayer for you is that you’ll find the day’s gift lasts longer than a toy or a bit of chocolate. My prayer for you is that what you read inspires you to show mercy to just one person that day.

For Christians, mercy never ends. But we know where it began...in the manger.

Melanie Rigney

# FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## *Living in the Light*

Through the course of history, light that shatters the darkness reveals to us that God is Father and that his patient fidelity is stronger than darkness and corruption.

*HOMILY, DECEMBER 24, 2014*

Lord, I become so stressed at this time of year. Despite my most earnest plans to spend some quiet time thanking you for the most tangible sign of your mercy—the coming of your Son—I find myself behaving in anything but a merciful matter. I get so concerned about gifts and gatherings that I become cranky with my family, friends, coworkers and even strangers on the street. Help me put aside the personal darkness that busyness can create and focus on your light. Help me to rest in your arms, today and always. Amen.

**READ ISAIAH 2:1-5**

# MONDAY

## FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

Those who believe, see; they see with a light that illumines their entire journey, for it comes from the risen Christ, the morning star which never sets.

*LUMEN FIDEI*

Lord, your light fills me with joy and confidence. With your guidance and encouragement, I am strong enough to do anything you ask. With your support, the road is made smooth, the path is made clear. Oh, shine your light, Lord; let it illumine my journey and my soul. Thank you for always being there to show me the way and set me aright with love when I stumble. Amen.

**READ MATTHEW 8:8**

## TUESDAY FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us.

*LETTER ON AN INDULGENCE DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY*

Lord, I praise you for your generosity in giving us your only Son. Jesus spoke of your desires and hopes for us in so many stories of mercy that speak to our own lives and challenge our minds and souls: the prodigal son, the good Samaritan, the vineyard workers. Thank you for sending Jesus to the world in a tangible form...and for his presence today and always in the Holy Eucharist. Thank you for helping us to see your goodness. Amen.

**READ LUKE 10:23-24**

POPE FRANCIS

# Mercy from the Manger



Let Pope Francis be your guide  
as you celebrate

Advent with his reflections on the momentous event that took place in Bethlehem so long ago when God reached down from heaven above and changed the course of humankind forever.

With this full-sized booklet, *Mercy from the Manger*, you can gain a greater understanding of God's mercy for all of us, represented by the birth, life and death of Jesus. A quote from Pope Francis each day, expounding on God's infinite mercy, is followed by a prayer written by well-known *Living Faith* author Melanie Rigney. Further Scripture reading is also suggested for every day. This booklet serves as a powerfully engaging spiritual tool that will guide you to a more joyful celebration of Christmas.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on [amazonkindle](#) and [nook](#)

By Melanie Rigney. Design by Jamie Wyatt. Cover image: Stefano Spaziani. © 2016 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

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