

POPE FRANCIS



# JESUS

*The Savior Among Us*

ENCOURAGEMENT  
& DAILY PRAYERS

# *Introduction*

What does it mean to say that the Savior is among us? Does God's everlasting gift of his son make a tangible difference in our lives? Do our actions match our belief that Christ, the Savior of the world, was born in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago, that he died to save us from our sins and that he will come again? Do we trust in his goodness and mercy? Do we have faith that he is always by our side?

These are questions worth pondering during this holy season. It is so easy to get caught up in the external planning for the holiday without taking the quiet time needed to prepare for the holy day and season of Christmas. Advent is meant to be a time of spiritual preparation for both the celebration of Jesus' birthday and for the second coming of Christ at the end of the world. May our time of prayer and reflection, as we meditate on the words of Scripture and the teachings of Pope Francis, bring us into a deeper relationship with Christ and help us to more fully embrace Jesus' call to a life of love and service.

*Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur*

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

# Christ Brings Us Hope

Thanks be to God who gives us  
the victory through our Lord Jesus  
Christ.

*1 Corinthians 15:57*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**A Christian can never be a pessimist!**

*Twitter, November 13, 2017*

Heavenly Father, sometimes it is so easy to look around at our world and become discouraged. There is so much division, so much anger, so much pain and suffering. But you gave us all the gift of your son to save us and to bring peace to the world. As I embark on this holy season of Advent, please give me the strength to live in hope and to await with joyful anticipation the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**READ LUKE 21:28**

MONDAY  
FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT



**The good news that Jesus brings us—  
and that John predicts—is that we do not  
need to wait for the kingdom of God  
in the future: it is at hand.**

*Angelus, December 4, 2016*

Dear King of All, every day I pray the familiar words, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven.” Yet I often don’t reflect on their deep meaning. Help me to truly listen to your words so that I may hear your voice and do your will. I pray that I may be the person you created me to be. Help me to make your kingdom a reality here on earth each day by spreading your love, your mercy and your kindness to all with whom I come in contact. Help me to welcome and invite everyone I meet to be part of your kingdom. Amen.

**READ MATTHEW 8:II**

TUESDAY  
FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT



From the moment Jesus entered into history, with his birth in Bethlehem, humanity received the seed of the Kingdom of God, like the soil receives the seed, the promise of a future harvest. There is no need to look further! Jesus has come to bring joy to all people for all time.

*Angelus, December 14, 2014*

Dear Father, thank you for the gift of your son. As I get ready for our remembrance of his birth, help me to better appreciate that he came to bring joy and peace. May I embrace that joy and peace in my own life. May I be brave enough to joyfully share those gifts with others. Help me to realize that there cannot be peace in the world until there is peace in my own family and community. Bolster my courage that I may serve as a peacemaker, reaching out to those I have hurt or pushed away. Amen.

**READ ISAIAH II:6**

WEDNESDAY  
FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT



**If you want to find God, seek him where  
he is hidden: in the neediest, the sick,  
the hungry, the imprisoned.**

*Twitter, November 13, 2016*

Dear Jesus, you reached out to those whom the rest of the world ignored: the sick, the poor, the mentally ill, the physically deformed and the sinners. You brought healing to both body and spirit. Please help me to see you in everyone, especially in the outcasts from whom I am tempted to shy away and avoid. Take away my fear and help me to reach out, to share all that I have and to be a living sign of your love and compassion. May I be an instrument of your healing and offer comfort wherever and whenever I can. Amen.

**READ MATTHEW 15:30**

THURSDAY  
FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT



**Nothing is more productive  
and fruitful than listening to and  
accepting the Word of the Lord, which  
comes from the Gospel, from the Bible.**

**The Lord is always speaking to us!**

*Angelus, December 8, 2014*

Dear God, thank you for the gift of Scripture. Your words are eternal, always important and always relevant. In your words I find comfort, consolation, hope and instruction on how to live. In this season of Advent, help me to take the time to read, listen to and reflect on your word. May I hear your message for us and then put it into practice. May others see that I am a Christian by the way that I live out your words. May I rejoice in the Good News of the gospel and then share it with all whom I meet. Amen.

**READ MATTHEW 7:24**



FRIDAY  
FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT



**The presence of the Lord in the midst  
of his people cancels the sorrow of defeat  
and the misery of slavery, and ushers  
in joy and happiness.**

*Homily, December 24, 2014*

Dear Lord, sometimes life seems too much to bear. It can feel as if there is too much to face, too much to endure, too much to fear. The pain and sorrows of life weigh down on me. Sometimes it seems that joy will never come again. You became human. You know what it is to suffer. Yet through your suffering, you have conquered pain and sorrow and even death. Please help me to remember that you are always with me, helping me to carry my crosses. Help me to trust that, with you by my side, I have nothing to fear. Amen.

**READ PSALM 27:1**

# JESUS

## *The Savior Among Us*



Since his election more than five years ago, Pope Francis has perhaps become best known for his humility and approachability. His numerous messages to the world have encouraged the faithful and piqued the curiosity of the unchurched. He has related the truths of the gospel in uniquely simple yet challenging language.

In *Jesus, The Savior Among Us*, readers will be enriched throughout Advent as they are invited to pray, reflect and meditate on the words of Scripture and the teachings of Pope Francis each day. Readers will be guided into a deeper relationship with Christ and to more fully embrace Jesus' call to a life of love and service.

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

By Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur. Design by Jeff McCall. © 2018 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). Cover photo: M.MIGLIORATO/ CPP/CIRIC. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.