

A LIGHT REVEALED



Advent Devotions *for* Catholic Seniors

“Ready or not, here I come!” That’s the familiar cry that is heard as a Hide and Seek countdown is completed. We now “find” ourselves at the start of our Advent countdown. Will we be ready when the Nativity of the Lord arrives in a few weeks?

If we give ourselves the opportunity to slow down and reflect during this season of preparation, if we “seek” a closer relationship with the Lord and a better understanding of our faults and failings, then we will be ready. Advent allows us the time to focus on Jesus coming to dwell among us, allowing us to reconcile with the Father. We can also reflect on the promise that he will one day come again in glory.

During the countdown to Christmas, allow yourself to experience this joyful expectation. Advent call us to be hopeful, faithful, joyful and peaceful. Are we listening to this call? Will you be ready or not?

With the Scripture, reflections, prayers and suggested actions on the following pages, I hope that you will indeed be ready for the greatest gift ever—our Savior, born among us.

Terence Hegarty
Editor

SUNDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

New Beginnings

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

We feel a fresh start in spring as nature reawakens with new life. New Year's Day is certainly a new beginning, as we start a new calendar and a new year.

Advent is a new beginning for those in the Church. We get ready for the big event: Christ's birth. He comes to reconcile our holy God and us sinful humans. In our baptism, we begin our new life as children of God. As children of God, we also wait for the new beginning of Christ's return.

We begin another church year in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. With whom can you share Christ and the new beginning he provides?

*Nancy Rapp
Crestwood, MO*

Dear Holy Child, we anticipate your coming again. Come, Lord Jesus, we who are blessed by you in so many ways look expectantly to you. Amen.

Begin: Initiate a new Advent tradition and share it with others.

Read: Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:3-5



MONDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

The Light of Hope

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you."

Luke 1:28

As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, we're reminded of the hope we have in God. I can imagine what Mary must have thought when the angel Gabriel appeared, and she learned of God's plan for her to give birth to Jesus. While it seemed impossible to her at first, she soon realized she was a servant of the Lord and placed her trust and hope in him.

In today's ever-changing world, we're faced with many life challenges that sometimes seem overwhelming and impossible. Like Mary, we need to place our hope and trust in God. Nothing is impossible with him. He is always faithful and keeps the promises he has made to us. Let the light of hope shine in your life today!

*Betsy Becker Niedringhaus
Ballwin, MO*

Dear Father, thank you for the gift of your Son.
Amen.

Reflect: How do you place your hope in Jesus?

Read: Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Childlike Faith

At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

Luke 10:21

Advent is a time of great mystery. It is a time of waiting, of preparation, of miracles. Just as a baby grows in the womb and its development cannot be seen or rushed, so it is with our faith. In the darkness and the quiet of contemplation, in the times when we struggle to see and understand God's plan, that is when our eyes begin to adjust. We begin to see differently. As we wait for the birth of Christ this season, we learn how to wait for the unveiling of other miracles in our lives as well. A simple, childlike faith is one that trusts in God's goodness. A patient heart can afford to wait for as long as it takes, because the outcome is certain.

*Kristen Armstrong
Austin, TX*

Lord, help us to wait with hopeful expectancy, trusting that you will teach us what we need to know. Amen.

Be mindful: Focus more on others, knowing that the Lord has already come to us.

Read: Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 35:4



WEDNESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Remembered

The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us.

Psalm 115:12

As parents of three children, we often needed their forgiveness. The busyness of our lives resulted in the need for two cars. While these dual autos served to ease our transportation needs, they did not eliminate all our challenges. On more than one occasion, one or the other of us forgot to pick up our youngest daughter from her location at the designated time.

Fortunately, we can trust that our heavenly Father remembers each of us, and by name, all the time. Chosen, loved and blessed with forgiveness found in Jesus, like Mary we pray, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

*Judith Christian
St. Louis, MO*

Heavenly Father, thank you for calling me by name and gifting me with grace found in the sacrificial love of Jesus. Guide me to joyfully serve you and others as you will. Amen.

Do: Like Mary, praise God. Let your spirit rejoice in his promises. Amen.

Read: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

THURSDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Good News

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

Luke 2:10

All of us, whether we are young or old, need to know we are loved. The birth of Jesus, God coming to the earth in human form, lets us know how very precious we are to God. This is indeed good news!

Advent is a time for us to recognize not only our longing for God, but God’s longing for us. God’s great desire for a relationship with us is embodied in Emmanuel—God is with us. “Fear not!” the angel says to the shepherds, and to us as well. When we know deep in our hearts that God is with us, there is no room for fear.

God’s love stills our minds and makes peaceful our thoughts. God’s love beckons us to welcome Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God, into our lives this Advent.

*Sally Macke
St. Louis, MO*

Jesus, Emmanuel, in my times of fear, help me remember you are with me. Amen.

Do: Take a moment to quiet yourself and invite Jesus into your heart.

Read: 1 John 4:18





Written especially for seniors, *A Light Revealed* is full of inspiring devotions designed to help seniors live life to the fullest every day of Advent and beyond! Presented in a LARGE PRINT format for easy reading, this devotional will assist you in preparing your heart this holy season. Original reflections from a variety of authors will bolster your faith and bring you closer to our newborn Savior, the Light of the World. Scripture passages will further point the way to a more blessed Christmas season.

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

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