

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

BUILDING UP OUR DOMESTIC CHURCH



IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL
LIVING INTO YOUR HOME

Included in this newsletter

- Explanation of Advent wreath and candles, blessing for wreath, weekly prayers.
- Feast Days during Advent: history and activities for the different feast days throughout the Advent season
- Joyful Mystery Packet
- Advent Reading List
- Christmas Novena
- O Antiphons
- St. Andrew's Christmas Prayer
- Jesse Tree
- Straw for Baby Jesus
- Advent Songs/Playlist



"ADVENT INVITES US TO A COMMITMENT TO VIGILANCE, LOOKING BEYOND OURSELVES, EXPANDING OUR MIND AND HEART IN ORDER TO OPEN OURSELVES UP TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE, OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND TO THE DESIRE FOR A NEW WORLD."

- POPE FRANCIS, ANGELUS, 2018

What is Advent?

USCCB: Liturgical
year/Advent



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. As we prepare for Christmas, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

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THE ADVENT WREATH

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas. Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT



The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



Advent Wreath Blessing

The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent.

All make the sign of the cross as leader says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.



Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

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.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind; bid ev'ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Week One: (light the first purple candle)

Scripture Reflection: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Isaiah 9:2

pause for reflection

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

Week Two: (light the first and second purple candles)

Scripture Reflection: "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

Luke 2:4-7

pause for reflection

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Week Three

(light 1st & 2nd purple candles and the pink candle)

Scripture Reflection: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:20

pause for reflection

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

Week Four

(light all four candles)

Scripture Reflection: "And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11

pause for reflection

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

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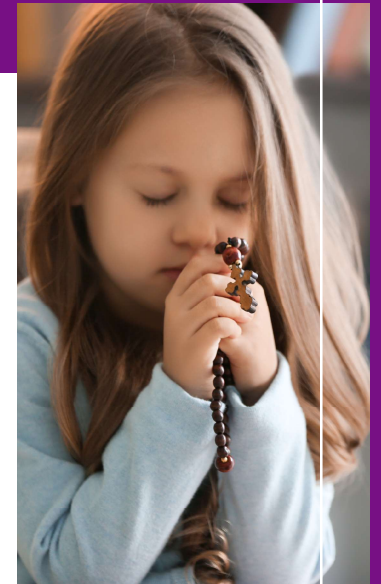
PRAYING THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL
LIVING INTO YOUR HOME

"The Holy Rosary, by age-old tradition, has shown itself particularly effective as a prayer which brings the family together...The family that recites the Rosary together reproduces something of the atmosphere of the household of Nazareth: its members place Jesus at the centre, they share his joys and sorrows, they place their needs and their plans in his hands, they draw from him the hope and the strength to go on."

-Pope St. John Paul II,
apostolic letter Rosarium

Virginis Mariae

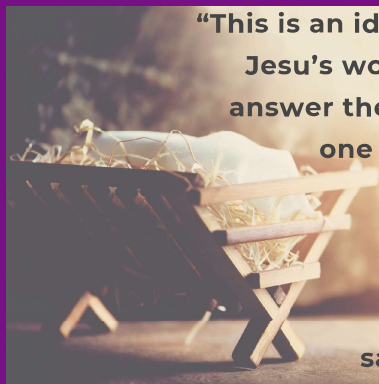


SEE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY PACKET FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY AND FOR SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS TO REFLECT ON WHILE PRAYING EACH MYSTERY! ALSO, ANY AND ALL PRAYERS ARE BEAUTIFUL! IF YOU NEED TO START WITH JUST ONE DECADE, THAT IS GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL TOO.

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STRAW FOR BABY JESUS

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME



"This is an idea to help children know more deeply Jesu's words in the parable: "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me'" (Matthew 25:40).

Advent is often known as a little lent, the 3 purple candles remind us of the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken

as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus!

The kid's sacrifices and good works during Advent, done for parents, friends, or siblings, can help create a soft, comfy bed for the baby Jesus when he is born on Christmas. All that is needed is a manger (small wooden box or shoebox wrapped in brown paper) and a jar or small container to hold the pieces of brown and yellow yarn or straw.

During Advent, if a child is doing a good job on a task, being kind to someone, or doing right away what has been asked of them, tell them to place a piece of straw in baby Jesus' manger. You can also let the kids award pieces of straw to each other if they've witnessed good deeds. On Christmas Eve, bring the baby Jesus and place him in the straw. You can sing "Away in a Manger" or other Christmas hymns!

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ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME



"The Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is often called simply the "Christmas Novena" or the "Christmas Anticipation Prayer," because it is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas.

An Explanation of the Novena

The opening words of this prayer—"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment"—may seem odd at first. But they reflect the Christian belief that moments in the life of Christ—His conception in the womb of the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation; His birth in Bethlehem; His death on Calvary; His Resurrection; His Ascension—are not only special but, in an important sense, still present to the faithful today. The repetition of the first sentence of this prayer is designed to place us, mentally and spiritually, there in the stable at His birth, just as an icon of the Nativity or a Nativity scene is meant to do. Having entered into His presence, in the second sentence we place our petition at the feet of the newborn Child.

Definitions of Words Used

Hail: an exclamation, a greeting **Blessed:** holy
Most pure: spotless, unstained; reference to her Immaculate Conception
Vouchsafe: to grant something, especially to someone who doesn't deserve it on his own
Desires: something one wants strongly; in this case, a spiritual one
Merits: good deeds or virtuous actions that are pleasing in God's sight



St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and
moment in which the Son of God
was born of the most pure
Virgin Mary, at midnight,
in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.
In that hour, vouchsafe,
O my God! to hear my prayer
and grant my desires,
(mention your intentions here)
through the merits of
Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of
His Blessed Mother. Amen.

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOKS

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME



A Jesus Christmas: Explore God's Amazing Plan for Christmas by Barbara Reaoch

Explore God's amazing plan for Christmas with this family devotional for Advent. Right from the beginning, the serpent lied to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden – and he has been lying ever since. But right from the beginning, God told us his amazing plan to send Jesus. Each of the 25 readings looks at one of the serpent's lies from Genesis 3, and then shows how the glorious truth of Christmas beats it every time! There is even space for each family member to make their own notes.

The Advent of Christmas by Matt Maher

Children will learn the story of the birth of Jesus, and why Christmas truly is 'the most wonderful time of the year.' As the weeks count down throughout December, children learn the meaning of each advent candle, the tale of a family in Bethlehem, and finally, Hallelujah, the birth of Jesus, our Lord Savior.

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOKS

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME

An Orange for Frankie by Patricia Palocco

Frankie is a young boy living with his large family during the Depression. Frankie learns the important lesson of giving to others in need while recognizing that family is irreplaceable.

The Legend of the Candy Cane by Lori Walburg

On a dark night in November, a stranger visits a small town. His motives are mysterious, although the townspeople hope he will be useful to the inhabitants. Little Lucy befriends him, and he reveals his true identity and shares the legend of the candy cane.

The Way to Bethlehem by Inos Biffi

This book tells the stories of the events surrounding Christmas—from the Annunciation to the Presentation of Jesus in the temple.

Country Angels by Tomie dePaola

This presents the message that even the smallest angel has great significance.
The Legend of Old Befana by Tomie dePaola
The Christmas story of an old Italian woman who never gives up her search for the Baby King.

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOKS

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME

Babushka by Sandra Ann Horn

The story of a woman who gives away all her gifts she's prepared for the Christ Child on her way to visit Him. She learns in the end that what she gave away to others, she gave to Him.

A Christmas Story by Brian Wildsmith

You know the donkey who carried Our Lady to Bethlehem? This is the story of the child of the donkey and its search for its mother. It finds a blessing beyond the baby donkey's imagination.

Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree by Robert E. Barry

Mr. Willoughby is a wealthy man whose giant tree blesses everyone in the neighborhood.
The Miracle of St. Nicholas by Gloria Whelan
In invaded Russia, a grandmother shares stories with her grandchild Christmastime of old.

The Legend of the Poinsettia by Tomie dePaola

A tale of Mexican Christmas traditions surrounding the poinsettia. A young girl sacrifices for her family and offers her humble gift to the Christ Child on Christmas Eve and the entire town witnesses a beautiful miracle.

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Room for a Little One by Martin Waddall

A book focused on the Nativity scene, told from the perspective of the animals and their wonder.

The Story of Holly and Ivy by Rumer Godden

This Christmas tale for children packs the same spiritual punch of adult stories. Ivy is a young orphan who longs for a family for Christmas, while Holly, a beautiful doll left in the story window, wonders if she'll ever be loved by a girl.

Papa's Angels by Collin Wilcox Paxton

A lyrical book with a music-driven plot tells the unique story of Christmas in Appalachia. Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd-Jones
A poetic book telling of the jubilation of all creation at the birth of the Savior.

The Donkey's Dream by Barbara Helen Berger

A lovely story of Mary's journey to Bethlehem from the perspective of the donkey who carries her. This book is especially beautiful in that the donkey describes Mary using different Marian titles and their corresponding image. A wonderfully unique book that looks at the Nativity through the importance of Mary.

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOKS

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The Night of Los Posadas

by Tomie dePaola

This story brings together the past and the present in a moving tale of community, family, presence, and Christmas miracles.

The Baker's Dozen by Aaron Shepherd

A beautiful tale of the goodness of St. Nicholas and how he helps the town baker learn that "baker's dozen" is a symbol of mercy.

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan

Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski

Jonathan Toomey has a gift for woodworking and is a bit of a mystery to the town as he mourns his lost wife and child. One day, he is approached by a widow and son, requesting nothing short of a miracle. The transformation and connection that happens captures the spirit of the season.

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOKS

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME

Mortimer's Christmas Manger

by Karma Wilson

An endearing tale of a mouse learning the meaning of Christmas shows how we all need to make room for Christ as the true meaning of Christmas.

The Lady of Guadalupe by Tomie dePaola

This picture book is perfect for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

The Night the Saints Saved Christmas

by Gracie Jagla

What happens when Saint Nick awakes on Christmas Eve with a sore throat and itchy nose? Children will enter more fully into the reason for the season and learn why we give gifts at Christmas, while growing deeper in their love and appreciation for the saints who watch over us and help us.



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THE JESSE TREE

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL LIVING INTO YOUR HOME

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees actually predates the arrival of Christianity in western Europe and was adopted by the early Church. In order to associate the custom more clearly with Christianity, people made Jesse trees. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. Here are some different resources to dive more deeply into the tradition of the Jesse Tree!

THE JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree by Geraldine McCaughrean

As Mr. Butterfield carves a Jesse Tree in a dusty old church, a curious young boy distracts him by asking about the various symbols on the tree. Against his inclination, the gruff old man finds himself retelling the familiar biblical tales that trace the family tree of Christ, from the Garden of Eden to Jesus' birth.

The Jesse Tree: 28 Ornaments For Advent: Family Devotions & Images To Color

by Anna L Sklar

This book contains 28 Ornaments - one for each day of Advent! The Ornaments include a Bible Story, Scripture reference, Talk About discussion idea, Prayer reading, and Illustrations to color.

God With Us: A Family Advent Celebration by Catherine Pawlak

Daily readings corresponding with twenty-five symbols, short prayers, and extension activities provide a flexible and engaging approach to celebrating Advent. Scripture references are provided for each day and can be read from your family's preferred translation. Appendices at the back of the book list the verses referenced for each reading in full (NIV), as well as images of each day's ornament or symbol that can be cut out and made into ornaments.

THE JESSE TREE

Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas

by Ann Voskamp

It includes devotions, daily Scripture readings, discussion questions, meaningful Advent activities, and beautiful illustrations. Person by person, story by story, retrace the lineage of Jesus. Fall in love with Him all over again as you experience God's plan of salvation for us—from the Garden of Eden to the manger and beyond.

The Advent Jesse Tree: Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas

by Dean Lambert Smith

The Advent Jesse Tree offers 25 devotions for each day from December 1st to December 25th, Christmas Day. These daily Advent devotions are written in two versions (one for children and one for adults) including a scripture, a story and commentary, questions to ask, a prayer, and a song.



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THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL
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“A novena is any prayer or set of prayers said for nine days consecutively, usually ending on the vigil of a feast day and often prayed with a particular intention in mind. A

Christmas novena could be anything from a Memorare or a Rosary prayed each day for nine days, to a nine-day set of prayers and readings done in preparation for Christmas.

Normally it would begin on December 16th and end on December 24th, but this can be adjusted to meet the needs of your family!”

-Kendra Tierney, The Catholic all year Compendium



DECEMBER 5-13, 2022
YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
THE SEMINARY
COMMUNITY AS WE
PREPARE FOR THE JOY
AND SPLENDOR OF
CHRISTMAS. EACH
EVENING OF THE NOVENA
WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE CHAPEL OF ST.
JOSEPH AND WILL
INCLUDE PRAYER,
SCRIPTURE, A REFLECTIVE
HOMILY, AND HYMNS LED
BY THE SEMINARIAN
CHOIR. ALL ARE WELCOME
IN-PERSON AND ON OUR
LIVESTREAM. DOORS OPEN
AT 6:30 P.M.

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA

OPENING PRAYERS (PART I)

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

Leader: O God, come to my assistance.

All: O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Leader: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

All: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: Rejoice, O you daughter of Sion and exult fully, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, the Lord and Master comes, and there shall be a brilliant light in that day, and the mountains shall drop down sweetness, and hills flow with milk and honey, for in that day the Great Prophet will come, and He Himself will renew Jerusalem.

All: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: Behold, the God-man of the house of David will come to sit upon the royal throne, and you will see Him and your heart will rejoice.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: Behold, the Lord our Protector will come to save us, Israel's holy One, wearing the crown of royalty on His noble brow and He will exercise His rule from sea to shining sea, and from the waters of the river to the ends of the earth.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA

OPENING PRAYERS (PART I)

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: Behold, the Lord and King will appear, and He will not deceive; but if He should delay, wait for Him to come; He will surely come and will not tarry.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: The Lord will come down like rain upon the fleece of Gideon; justice will thrive and an abundance of true peace; all the kings of the lands of the earth will adore Him, and every nation will serve Him.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: A Child will be born to us, and He will be called God the almighty; He will sit upon the royal throne of David His father, and He will hold sway, the sign of His power on His shoulder.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: Bethlehem, city of the Most High God, from you will come forth the King of Israel, and He will proceed forth from His eternity; and He will be greatly praised in the midst of the entire universe; and there will be peace in our land when He will have come.

All: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

(On the Eve of Christmas add:)

Eldest Child: Tomorrow the wickedness of the whole world will be destroyed, and over us will reign the Savior of the world.

All: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

Eldest Child: Near at last is Christ our King.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA

PSALM: LET THE HEAVENS BE GLAD (PART II)

All: Blow ye the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is nigh: behold, He will come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

The following prayer can be said all together, or each phrase recited alternately.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice. O all you mountains, praise the Lord.

Let the mountains break forth into gladness, and the hills with justice.

For the Lord shall come and to the poor He shall show mercy.

Drop down dew, you heavens, from above and let the clouds rain the Just One;

Let the earth be opened and bud forth the Savior.

Be mindful of us, O Lord, and visit us in Your salvation.

Show to us, O Lord, Your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Come, O Lord, in peace visit us that with a perfect heart we may rejoice before You.

Come, O Lord, do not tarry; do away with the offenses of Your people.

Come and show to us Your countenance, O Lord. You sit upon the cherubim.

Leader: Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

All: Blow ye the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is nigh: behold, He will come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA

SCRIPTURE READING (PART III)

December 16: Genesis 3:1-15; Romans 1:18-26

December 17: Genesis 3:14-20; Romans 5:12-21

December 18: Genesis 17:15-23; Romans 4:13-23

December 19: Deuteronomy 15:13-20; Acts 3:18-26

December 20: Isaiah 28:14-20; Romans 10:5-11

December 21: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Luke 1:26-39

December 22: Deuteronomy 7:6-21; Ephesians 2:12-22

December 23: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24: Micah 5:1-5; Luke 2:1-8

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Drop down dew from above, O you heavens, and let the clouds rain the Just One.

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA

DAILY ANTIPHONS FOR MAGNIFICAT (IV)

Leader reads corresponding antiphon

16. Behold, the King will come, the Lord of the earth, and He will remove from us the yoke of our captivity.

17. O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly, Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

18. O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with outstretched arm.

19. O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kinds shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: Come to deliver us, and tarry not.

20. O Key of David, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: Come and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

21. O King of the Gentiles and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: Come, and deliver man, whom You formed out the dust of the earth.

22. O King of the Gentiles and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: Come, and deliver man, whom You formed out of the dust of the earth.

23. O Emmanuel, God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: Come to save us, O Lord our God.

24. With the rising of the sun, you will soon see the King of kings and Lord of lords, coming forth from His Father, as the bridegroom, from His bridal chamber.

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA

THE MAGNIFICAT (PART V)

The Leader begins with the first stanza. The Magnificat can be read alternating stanzas between groups or all together at once.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, And has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.

He come to the help of his servant Israel for He has remembered His promise of mercy,

The promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.

Amen.

All: Repeat the Antiphon for the Day

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENEA ❄️

CLOSING PRAYER (PART VI)

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come to You.

Leader: Let us pray: Hasten, we beseech You, O Lord; do not delay; grant us the help of supernatural virtue, so that Your coming will be a consolation to those who hope in Your mercy. You who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God world without end.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: And give Him thanks.

Leader: May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

All: Amen.



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

ADVENT PLAYLIST ❄️

IDEAS TO BRING LITURGICAL
LIVING INTO YOUR HOME

Before diving into beloved Christmas songs, we have compiled an entire playlist containing songs related to the preparation and anticipation of Christmas!

-St. Clare Advent Playlist 2022-



O ANTIPHONS

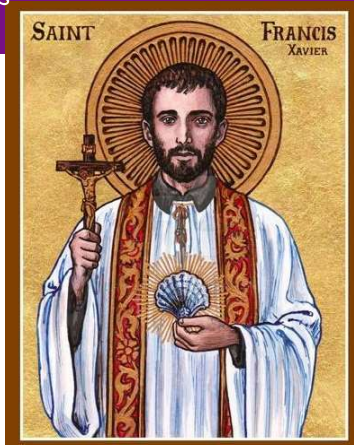
The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 23, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 3RD



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

PATRON SAINT OF CATHOLIC MISSIONS
1506-1552



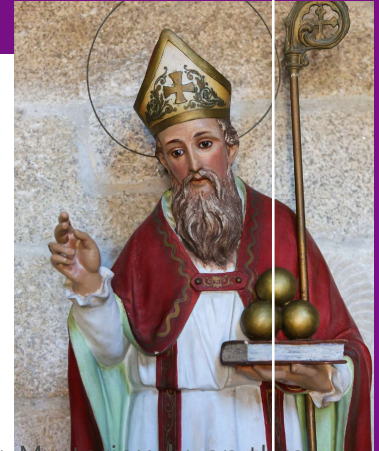
St. Francis of Xavier did not always have his eyes set on becoming a priest. It wasn't until his roommate, St. Ignatius of Loyola kept pleading with him to consider the priesthood! 1534, Xavier joined Ignatius and five other students in making secret vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to the pope. Three years later, he was ordained, and in 1540, after the pope approved Ignatius' plan for a new religious order, Xavier became the first missionary priest of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). His first journey was to India, where the king of Portugal needed someone to re-evangelize the Portuguese who had settled in the Near East. He later went on missions to Malaysia and Japan. Almost everywhere he traveled, Xavier was the first Christian missionary the people had met. Although he struggled with languages, he worked with native interpreters and used both art and culture to introduce thousands to the Gospel. By the time, Francis Xavier died at age 46, in 1552, he had baptized at least 30,000 people. It's said he was responsible for more conversions to Christianity than any one single person since St. Paul the Apostle.

FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 6TH



FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

PATRON SAINT OF SAILORS, MERCHANTS,
ARCHERS, REPENTANT THIEVES, AND CHILDREN
270-343



One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas was also a bishop! In addition to placing out a shoe on the vigil of St. Nick, cut out a mitar to place next to your shoe to wear on the feast day!

FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 7TH

FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE

PATRON SAINT OF BEEKEEPERS
CIRCA 340-397

St. Ambrose grew up in a Roman Christian family. According to legend, when St. Ambrose was an infant, a swarm of bees landed on his face, leaving behind a drop of honey. That convinced his father that his son would become a great orator with a "honey tongue."

St. Ambrose was consecrated bishop of Milan, Italy in 374. During his tenure, he accomplished great things for the Church, including influencing St. Augustine of Hippo to convert to Christianity. He delivered sermons and important theological treatises that impacted the lives of several popes and the public at large. He is one of the four original Doctors of the Church.



Ancient Roman Honey Cake

1 1/2 cups all-purposed flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup milk
3/4 cup honey
1 large egg
1/2 cup vegetable or olive oil
1 teaspoon lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350, spray a 10-inch round cake pan. Mix dry ingredients together. In separate bowl, combine and beat together the liquid ingredients. Slowly beat the liquid mix into the dry mix and pour into pan. Bake for 30-40 minutes. Cool before serving.



FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 8TH

SOLEMINITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

PATRON OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Catholics believe that before God entered the world as a man, he first prepared his mother. Instead of being cleansed of original sin and infused with grace at baptism, like the rest of us, Mary, like Eve, was created pure, in view of the foreseen merits of Jesus Christ. For this reason, Mary is often called "the New Eve." The early Church Fathers believed that Mary had been "purified beforehand in both soul and flesh by the Spirit." It wasn't until 1854 that the Immaculate Conception was defined dogmatically by Pope Pius IX. A dogma of the Catholic Church is a truth that has been revealed by God and recognized by the Magisterium as something in which all Catholics **must** believe.



In addition to attending Mass (**this is a Holy Day of Obligation**), fun ways to celebrate include: eating all white foods for dinner and dessert, having a procession around your house with a Marian statue or image, praying the Litany of Loreto (Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.)

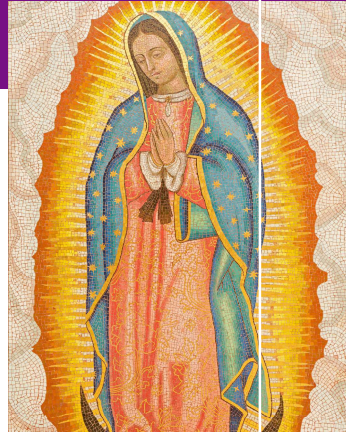


FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 12TH



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

PATRON SAINT OF THE AMERICAS



St. Juan Diego was a 57-year-old widower and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady. Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared. Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma. On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Fun celebration ideas include: eating tamales, drinking Mexican hot chocolate, and bringing roses to a Marian statue.