

# Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

**OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS**  
**510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868**

**Phone:** 936-825-3920 • **Fax:** 936-825-7612

**Religious Education:** 936-825-1869

**After hour emergencies:** 936-825-3920

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

### **Monday-Thursday**

9:15am - noon & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Friday** 9:15am- noon

Other times by appointment

**Website:** [www.christourlight.org](http://www.christourlight.org)

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopéz

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Matthew Krusleski, Pastoral Year Seminarian

## **ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER**

Nelda Kurten

## **COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Carolyn Katkoski

## **DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC**

Susan Russell

## **SACRISTAN**

Samuel Pry

## **PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Michael Culver (Chairperson), Teresa Morales, Jason Katkoski, Laura Quirino, Gerardo Olguin, Sam Pry and Larry Busa

## **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Teresa Morales, Ann Clark, Carolyn Katkoski

## **DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN**

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Mitch Kroll, Gregorio Gonzalez

## **RE BOARD**

President: Brandi Tejada, Vice President: Jessica Herrera

Secretary: Teresa Morales, Board Members: Lucy Coronilla, Jason Katkoski, Allyson Sweeney, Den Grant Holt

## **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Larry Busa, Danny Clark, Richard Krolczyk, and Joe Rangel

## **YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR**

Jessica Herrera

## **SUNDAY EUCHARIST**

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: (English) 8:00am

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00pm

## **WEEKDAY EUCHARIST**

First Saturday 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm (English)

Thursday 6:00pm (Spanish)

## **ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON**

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:40pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10am

Saturday: 5:15pm

Sunday: 7:15am & 12:15pm

## **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION**

Tuesday, Thursday and

2nd & 4th Saturdays 5:00-5:45pm

and by appointment 936-825-3920

## **RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES**

Los Martes, jueves y el

segundo y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45pm

y por cita 936-825-3920

**1st Sunday of Advent : November 29, 2020**



# Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

November 28 & 29, 2020

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

No Mass

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01**

6:00 PM Adolph † & Edith † Cuellar

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02**

8:30 AM Smith Family, Living & Deceased

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03**

8:30 AM Torres and Rangel Families

6:00 PM\* Angelina Tenorio †

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04**

8:30 AM Spanish Legion of Mary, Living & Deceased

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 05**

9:00 AM English Legion of Mary, Living & Deceased

6:00 PM Grace Martinez †

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 06**

8:00 AM Benefactor's of Memorial Fund

1:00 PM\* Martin Ruiz, Jr. †

\*Spanish

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01**

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confessions, CH

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02**

6:00 PM CCE Grades 1-5th, SPH & SPCC Group B

6:00 PM RCIC, SPCC

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03**

10:00 AM English Legion of Mary, CH Cry Room

7:00 PM RCIA, SPH

7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 06**

10:15 AM CCE Grades 6-12th, SPH, SPCC Group B

## EXTRA CONFESSION TIME

Friday, December 11th and 18th  
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Church



The parish thanks the Altar Society for the Altar Flowers for Confirmation on the 19th and this weekend in honor of the Confirmation Candidates

this past weekend.

Christ Our Light Catholic Church



The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston

The Church is open every day from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for people to come stop by and Pray.

## E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

## BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and or articles are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office, or faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org.

Events, meeting etc. for the Parish Calendar are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office in advance.

## AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. Announcements are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodía. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, **please** notify the parish office, 825-3920.



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## Sacrament of Baptism Schedule

English Baptism Class Schedule for 2021: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Jan. 9th, April 10th, July 10th, & October 9th  
**PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS.**  
To register please contact Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Lucy Coronilla at 936-419-9296.

Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2021: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, Jan 24th, April 25th, July 25th, & October 24th.

For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974

**ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS** must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. SCHEDULED Baptism will be celebrated once a month at 12 noon every 3rd Saturday following completion of the baptismal classes the prior month and **Fr. Eli has been informed in advance.** The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration. Therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated here.





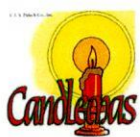
**PRAY for THE CONTINUING  
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF  
the infirmed and homebound  
members of our community.**

Sarafina Alo, Jo Ann Clepper, Frank Crouch, Elizabeth Culmer, Herman Culmer, Eva Estrada, Liz Estrada, Lois Finke, Liz Johnson, Rachel Kammel, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kubricht, Glenda Lawrence, John Lawrence, Christian Mills, Leslie Mills, France Munoz, Leon Nowak, Victor Ostigui, Leona Pasket, Cecelia Pearson, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Irene Ramirez, Lucila Rivera, Rosalinda Salazar, Josh Sechelski, Dana Sowell, and Krysten Sowell, Jessie Valadez, III, Crystal Winkler.

**Call the parish office** when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920.

Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, **please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.**

*Thank you.*



**New Memorial Candles**

The new Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.



**YOUR PARISH  
SUPPORT  
SU APOYO  
PARROQUIAL**

**TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:**

**GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS**

**November 21 & 22, 2020**

(71) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks	
On Live Giving, Mail Ins, & Drop Ins	4,869.50
Maintenance Fund	60.00
Campaign for Human Development	456.00

Thank you thank you for Mailing, Bringing In, and On Line Giving your Offertory. Baskets will not be passed during the Offertory. You will be able to place your weekly gift in a basket by the Baptism Font before or after Mass.

**II Collections**

**December 05 & 06 — Retirement Fund for Religious  
(Sisters)**

**December 12 & 13 — Maintenance Fund**

**In Our Prayers**

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

SSG Jorge Aguilar, Jr., Alexander Cortez, Jesus Cortez, Spec. Alys Flores Kelleher, SFC Antinia Franco, 1SG, Jason Malek, Antonio Magallon, Jose Rene Milan, Christopher Munoz, Javier Salinas, Sgt. Kevin Seigler, SSgt Allen Thane

**OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS  
FOR NOVEMBER**

**General Intention — Artificial Intelligence**

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.



**P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic  
Reparative Adoration)**

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Thursdays throughout the Summer following the 8:30 AM Masses on Thursdays and will be reposed before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass.*

*The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."*

**Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024 to sign up for a time slot on Thursdays.**

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND  
Web site is [FORMED.ORG](http://FORMED.ORG)**

**The Parish Code to access the website is  
MVMZKF**

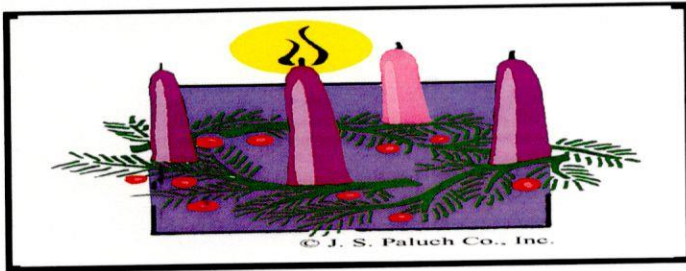
**Then register to create an account.**

**There are 2 easy ways to connect to  
FLOCKNOTE (pick one):**

**NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.**

1. Visit our church at: [www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch](http://www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch)
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.





## First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020

Be watchful! Be Alert! You do not know  
when the time will come. Mark 13:33

### MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

Altar Society—January and July  
Pastoral Council—February and October  
Finance Council—March and September  
R.E. Board—April and August  
Stewardship—May and November  
Choir—June and December

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

**First Sunday of Advent** — *“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.” Mark 13:33* We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

### Boletín de Mayordomía—Reflexiones

**Primer Domingo de Adviento** — *“Mirad, velad y orad; porque no sabéis cuándo llegará el momento.” Marcos 13:33* Todos damos las cosas por sentado. En particular, damos el tiempo por sentado. Tenemos nuestras vidas demasiado ocupadas. Planificamos nuestro tiempo, nuestros días, semanas, meses e incluso años por adelantado. Recuerde, nuestro tiempo en la tierra es un regalo. Ninguno de nosotros sabe cuánto tiempo estaremos aquí. Empezé hoy y comience a agradecer a Dios por cada día. Tómese un tiempo en silencio, todos los días, y escucha cómo Dios te está llamando ahora mismo para ayudar a construir Su reino en la tierra.

### CONGRATULATIONS AND BLES- SING TO OUR STUDENT AND ADULTS WHO WERE CONFIRMED ON NOVEMBER 19TH

Amberley Morales, Jacoby Mendez, Ashley Reyes, Jasmin Nunez, Diana Padron, Jose Lopez, Erik Covarrubius, Lissett Medina, Ernesto Navarro, Nadia Garcia and Gina Guzman

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the

### PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

### MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or Special Intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

ParishSOFT  
Giving

### SIGN UP NOW

Sign Up for Christ Our Light  
Online Giving Now

Christ Our Light now accepts online giving. Parish Soft is our parish's online giving program. Enroll at the link below. It is secure and easy to use. You will be able to use Parish Soft for normal tithing and special collections throughout the year. Apps are available, so your cell phones/tablets can be used for online giving.

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/dl?uid=chri510191>

### CELEBREMOS/LET US CELEBRATE MISSALETES

Missalette's starting November 29th to February 16, 2021 are available to purchase for \$5.00. Do not leave them in Church. Take them home with you, bring with you each weekday or weekend Masses you will be attending.



**CCE NEWS:** We are asking that more parents get involved with their child's Religious Education by becoming an aid/assistant in the classroom. We are still looking for aids for the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Even if you don't have a child attending classes please consider helping to educate our students. All are welcome!

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#### **FEAST OF FAITH**

##### **What Is the Mass?**

What is the Mass? There is no simple answer to that question. The Church uses many different images and terms to describe our most important prayer. The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist, a Greek word that means "thanksgiving." It is the Lord's Supper. It is the Breaking of the Bread. It is the memorial of the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. It is the Holy Sacrifice, in which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is perpetuated. It is the holy and divine liturgy, the sacred mysteries. It is the source and summit of our Christian lives, the new covenant, the work of the Holy Spirit, the paschal mystery. The many different words and images that we use when we speak of the Mass are not signs of confusion, but of wonder at what the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1328) calls the "inexhaustible richness" of the Eucharist. The Mass, our greatest prayer and our deepest mystery, is celebrated every day, many times a day, the world over. The Eucharist is both "bread from heaven" and "daily bread." The Mass is our everyday miracle.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

#### **FIESTA DE LA FE**

##### **Iglesia peregrina**

Nuestra participación en la Misa requiere que peregrinemos desde el hogar hasta la iglesia parroquial. Realmente nuestra preparación comienza en casa, desde que nos disponemos a la participación y emprendemos la peregrinación. Esto nos recuerda que la Iglesia, en esencia, es peregrina y que sigue esperando la venida del Emmanuel, no sólo del Dios que nace entre nosotros, sino del Dios que, en la persona de Cristo, vendrá de nuevo, de Jesús, cuyo nombre significa: Dios salva. Aunque caminamos y nos desplazamos a muchos lugares, esta peregrinación es particularmente significativa porque nos reunimos con un mismo fin, celebrar el misterio pascual de Cristo: su pasión, muerte y resurrección. El congregarnos en la casa de la Iglesia, haciendo a un lado nuestras diferencias naturales, para hacernos una voz, un solo pan y un solo cáliz reafirma la posibilidad de caminar juntos hacia Dios, de unir nuestra alabanza, de alimentarnos para el viaje y de celebrar por adelantado el Reino de Dios anunciado por Jesús. Por eso es que caminamos con un fin, un fin que puede ir más allá de nuestra propia visión, si se quiere, pero que en la perspectiva de Dios, es tan concreto y tan veraz, como el pueblo que se reúne y camina con alegría a la casa de la Iglesia.

—Miguel Arias, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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#### **CHRISTIAN RNEWAL CENTER**

**Spirit of Christmas Market—Saturday, November 28 — 10 AM - 2 PM**  
**Face Covering Required**

**Come enjoy shopping from local vendors, crafters, and small businesses. Clothes, Jewelry, Christmas, Religious, Décor, and More!**  
**Christian Renewal Center, 1515 Hughes Rd, Dickinson, Texas**

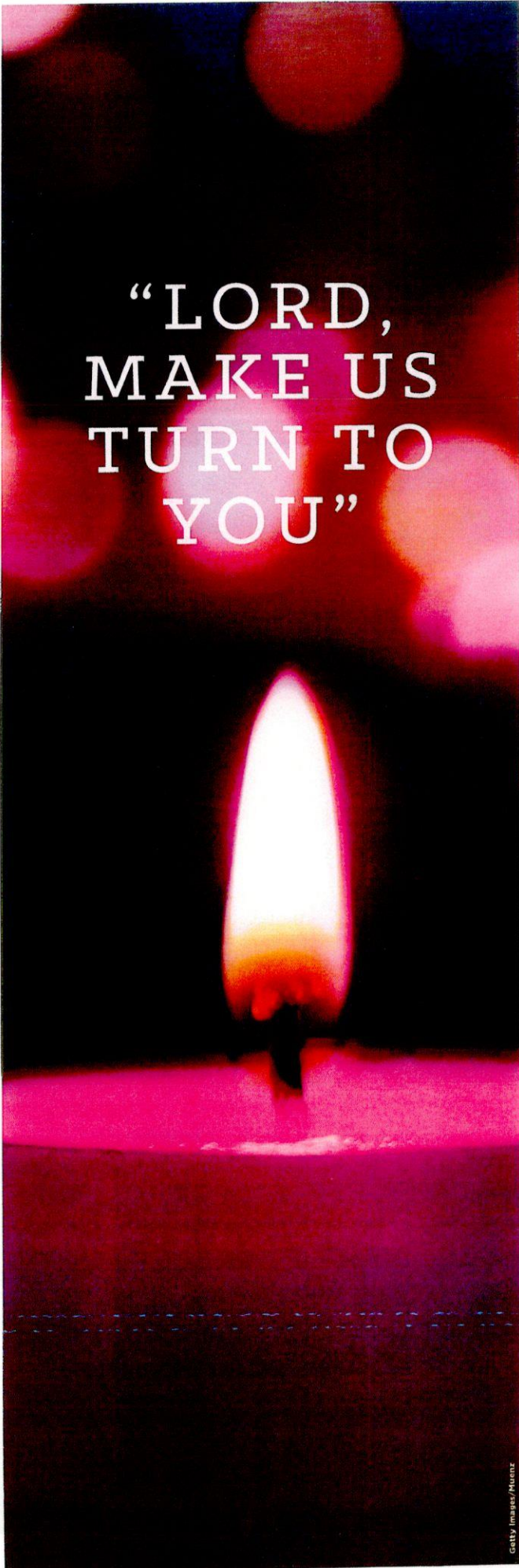
**Furniture Sale, Saturday, December 12 — 8AM to Noon. Face Covering Required. New Mattresses, Used Bedframes, Night Stands, Table, and Chairs. Christian Renewal center, 1515 Hughes Rd. Dickinson, Texas.**



November 29, 2020

## First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7 | 1 Cor 1:3-9 | Mk 13:33-37



“LORD,  
MAKE US  
TURN TO  
YOU”

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Sometimes I grow nostalgic for the laid-back Advents of my childhood: making a list for Santa, digging into the perforated cardboard Advent calendar for chocolate for breakfast, and lighting the Advent wreath (fire!) each Sunday. We all know, however, that the season can quickly become usurped by things to do – shopping, family, cleaning, etc. Today's readings remind us that this is not what Advent is about. The tone in our Scriptures which begin the Advent season is not subtle. Isaiah asks God to return, to “rend the heavens and come down” – to save and deliver his people. The psalm is equally adamant: “Lord, make us turn to you.” We, as a Church, are waiting for the fullness of the Kingdom on earth, and we must prepare.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I'm a cradle Catholic, but for me, Advent was always about waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ. I love pulling out the Nativity scene and lighting the candles each week leading to the celebration of Christ's birth. Only in recent years have I grown in awareness of the dual meaning of Advent – that we Christians also are waiting for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. I admit, it's always seemed to me something far into the future and perhaps not applicable to my lifetime here on earth. However, as Jesus reminds us in the Gospel, “You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.” And while this is true, it not something to fear, but something to prepare for and look forward to! We wait in joyful hope, asking for the grace to remain faithful to our baptism and to live in a way that makes Christ's presence known to others.

**STUDY** Remember the pre-pandemic holidays? Chances are, you've got some extra time on your hands this season. Why not use it to take a deeper dive into Advent this year, by participating in an online Bible study or reading and praying with the Scriptures each day of Advent.



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

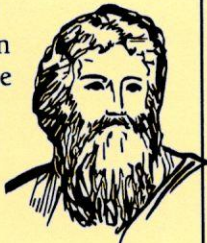
December 2020

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church  
Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Holiday advice

The holiday season is an important time in the Church but, in the midst of a pandemic, it can also be a time when health worries, money worries, family worries, and every kind of worry intrudes. Instead, try to follow this advice from St. Paul, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8).



### Unborn joy

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb ..." (Luke 1:40). Even in the womb, John was filled with joy to serve God. With the coming of Christmas, look for ways to do God's will and then leap for joy as you fulfill His plan.

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).



## God is love

We call God "Creator," "Savior," "Father," yet when we really want to understand who He is, one word is enough. God is love.

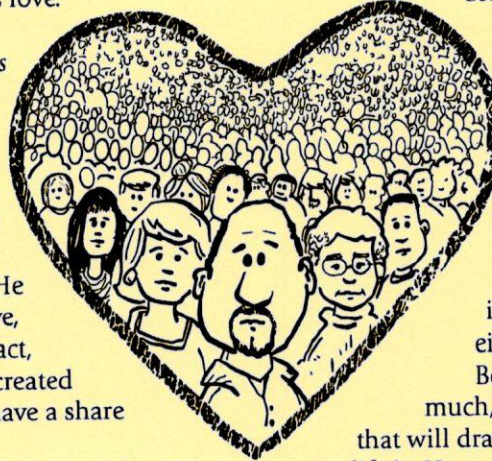
"Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:-8). Love is the very nature and essence of God Himself. He doesn't just love, He is love. In fact, that's why He created us, so we can have a share in that love.

We are not simply swept up in the good will God has toward all his creations. He loves each of us as individuals and that love is never-ending and unconditional. "Can

a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name" (Isaiah 49:15-16). This is not necessarily because we are good; we can't possibly earn the vast love He has for us. But the good news is we can't lose it either.

Because He loves us so much, He denies us nothing that will draw us closer to him and to life in Heaven. "For God so loved the world," Jesus declared, "that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics believe in a "virgin birth?"

Before Jesus was born, Isaiah was told, "the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The virgin birth was documented in Luke 1:34.

Had Jesus been conceived like the rest of

us, He could not have been a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

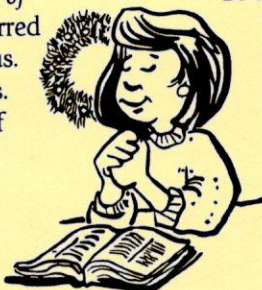




## Awaken to the presence of God on Christmas morning

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). An amazing truth occurred at the first Christmas; God came and lived among us. Even more amazing, He continues to live among us. During Advent, take steps to become more aware of His presence.

**Begin each day in his presence.** Before you get out of bed in the morning, place yourself in His presence. Take a few minutes to focus on a sacred picture or an image that will help you to



"Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

**Seek God's Word.** Start your day with Scripture such as the daily Mass readings (found on [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) or another reading you choose. Ask God to teach you during the day from that selection.

**Speak to him throughout the day.** Picture the Lord next to you throughout your day and talk with Him as you experience the day together. Brother

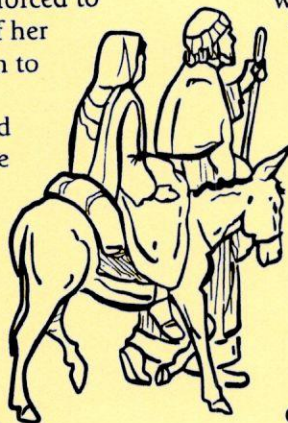
Lawrence, a 17th century monk, suggested prayer shouldn't be confined to formal times.

### from Scripture

**Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, God chooses each of us in a special way.**

Mary and Joseph were forced to travel in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty and exhausting journey. Once there, they had no option for decent housing and had to stay in a stable with animals. Young Mary gave birth in crude conditions with no friend or family to help.

After a short time, they fled to Egypt with their newborn to escape threats from the government, and stayed there for several years. There



were no friendly faces to greet the family once they arrived and they had to make their own way in an unfamiliar land.

Refugees all over the world flee violence like the Holy Family. Catholics have a special charge to protect them and those who are vulnerable: children, elderly, and poor.

Like Mary's and Joseph's, God has a special place for each of us in his plan of salvation. Prayerfully ask God what he wants you to do for him and his kingdom.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross (1591).** As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Briefly jailed over a misunderstanding, some of his best spiritual writing came from this experience.

**Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597).** Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and vigorously safeguarded the Catholic faith through writings and teaching. His work, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is still used today.

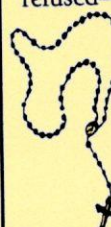
**Dec. 26 – St. Stephen (first century).** A deacon of the early Church, St. Stephen preached that God can be found everywhere, not just in one place like the temple. He angered the Jewish authorities and became the first martyr of the Catholic Church.

**Dec. 27 – The Holy Family (1st century).** On the feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. By their love and support of one another the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



### Q & A How do Catholics benefit from praying the Rosary?

The Rosary is a simple prayer adapted from the complex prayers of medieval monks. It's a powerful prayer because in it, we ask Mary—whose prayers are never refused—to pray for us. In addition, the



mysteries of the Rosary introduce us to the lives of Jesus and Mary. Each mystery is associated with a fruit. For example, the fruit of the mystery of the Annunciation is humility. Praying the

Rosary opens us to the graces to be more Christ-like.

A prayer with roots in Scripture, the Rosary begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic Faith. The Our Father that introduces each mystery is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary that follows is from the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary.

The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary can be said privately or with a group.

#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)



# Creciendo en la Fe

Descubriendo esperanza y gozo en la fe católica.

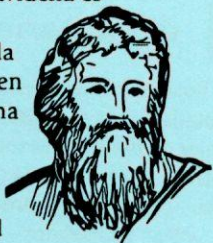
Diciembre de 2020

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church  
Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

## Meditaciones breves

### Consejo para las fiestas

La temporada navideña es un momento importante en la Iglesia, pero en medio de una pandemia puede ser también un tiempo en el que se inmiscuyen preocupaciones por la salud, el dinero, la familia y todo tipo de asuntos. Procuren seguir este consejo de san Pablo: *"Por lo demás, hermanos, todo cuanto hay de verdadero, de noble, de justo, de puro, de amable, de honorable, todo cuanto sea virtud o valor, ténganlo en aprecio"* (Filipenses 4:8).



### Alegría no nacida

*"En cuando oyó Isabel el saludo de María, saltó de gozo el niño en su seno..."* (Lucas 1:41). Incluso en el seno de su madre Isabel, Juan se llenó de gozo por servir a Dios. Al llegar la Navidad, busquen formas de cumplir la voluntad de Dios y salten de gozo cuando cumplan sus designios.

*"Daré a luz a un hijo, y le pondrás por nombre Jesús, porque él salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados"* (Mateo 1:21).



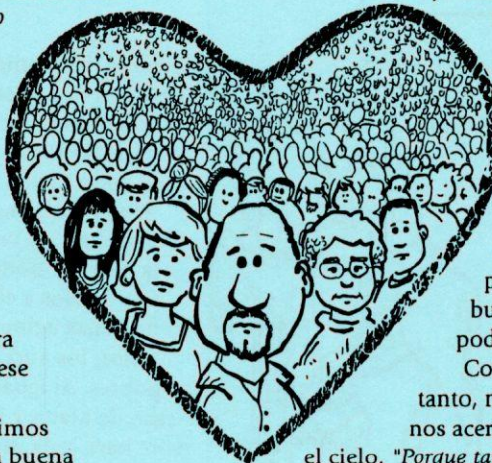
## Dios es amor

Llamamos a Dios "Creador", "Salvador", "Padre", aunque, cuando de verdad queremos entender quién es, basta una sola palabra. Dios es amor.

*"El que no ama no ha conocido a Dios, pues Dios es amor"* (1 Juan 4:-8). El amor es la naturaleza y la esencia de Dios mismo. No es que ame, es que él es amor. En realidad por esa razón nos creó, para que compartamos ese amor.

No sólo nos sentimos desbordados por la buena voluntad que Dios tiene por todas sus criaturas. Nos ama a cada uno de nosotros como individuos y ese amor es infinito e incondicional.

*"Pero, ¿puede una mujer olvidarse del niño que cría, o dejar de querer al hijo de sus entrañas? Pues bien, aunque alguna lo olvidase, yo nunca me olvidaría de ti."*



*Mira cómo te tengo grabada en la palma de mis manos"* (Isaías 49:15-16). Y no es porque seamos buenos; es imposible merecernos el vasto amor que Dios siente por nosotros. Pero lo bueno es que tampoco podemos perderlo.

Como Dios nos ama tanto, no nos niega nada que nos acerque a él y a la vida en el cielo. *"Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo", declaró Jesús, "que dio a su Hijo unigénito para que todo el que crea en él no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna"* (Juan 3:16).

¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

¿Por qué creen los católicos en un "nacimiento virginal"?

Antes del nacimiento de Jesús, esto ya se le anunció a Isaías: *"He aquí que una doncella está en cinta y va a dar a luz a un hijo, y le pondrá por nombre Emmanuel"* (Isaías 7:14). El nacimiento virginal fue documentado en Lucas 1:34.

Si Jesús hubiera sido concebido como el resto de

nosotros, no podría haber sido un sacrificio perfecto por nuestros pecados. *"Y la Palabra se hizo carne, y puso su Morada entre nosotros, y hemos contemplado su gloria, gloria que recibe del Padre como Unigénito, lleno de gracia y de verdad"* (Juan 1:14).





## Despierten a la presencia de Dios la mañana de Navidad

"Y la Palabra se hizo carne, y puso su Morada entre nosotros" (Juan 1:14). Una verdad asombrosa se reveló la primera Navidad: Dios llegó y vivió entre nosotros. Y aún es más asombroso que siga viviendo entre nosotros. Durante el Adviento, tomen medidas para ser más conscientes de su presencia.

Comiencen cada día en su presencia. Por la mañana, antes de levantarse, colóquense en la presencia de Dios. Durante unos minutos, fijen su atención en una estampa sagrada o en una imagen que les ayude a recordar esto: "Ríndanse y reconozcan



que yo soy Dios" (Salmo 46:11).

Busquen la Palabra de Dios. Empiecen su día con la Sagrada Escritura, por ejemplo con las lecturas de la misa del día (que se encuentran en [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) o con cualquier otra lectura a su elección. Pídanle a Dios que les enseñe mediante esa lectura a lo largo del día.

Hablen con él durante la jornada. Imaginen al Señor a su lado a lo largo de su jornada y hablen con él para vivir el día juntos. El hermano Lorenzo, un monje del siglo XVII, decía que la oración no debe limitarse a horas establecidas.

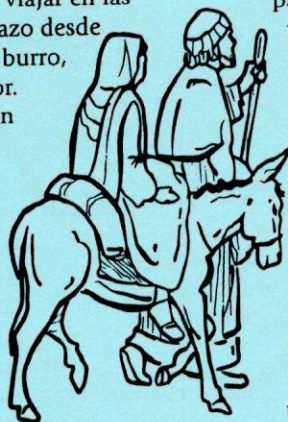
### de las **E**scrituras

**Mateo 2:13-15, 19-23, Dios elige a cada uno de nosotros de forma especial.**

María y José tuvieron que viajar en las últimas etapas de su embarazo desde Nazaret a Belén. A pie o en burro,

era un viaje sucio y agotador. Una vez allí, no encontraron alojamiento decente y tuvieron que quedarse en un establo con animales. La joven María dio a luz en duras condiciones, sin la ayuda de familiares o amigos.

Al cabo de un corto tiempo huyeron a Egipto con el recién nacido, escapando de las amenazas del gobierno, y se quedaron allí varios años. Al llegar no había rostros amistosos



para dar la bienvenida a la familia y tuvieron que buscarse la vida en una tierra desconocida.

Refugiados de todo el mundo huyen de la violencia como la Sagrada Familia. Los católicos tienen la especial obligación de protegerlos a ellos y a las personas vulnerables: los niños, los ancianos y los pobres. Al igual que en el caso de María y José, Dios tiene para cada uno de nosotros un lugar especial en su plan de salvación. Pregunten a Dios mediante la oración qué quiere que hagan para él y para su reino.

### Fiestas y celebraciones

14 de diciembre – San Juan de la Cruz (1591). Fraile carmelita, encabezó una reforma en la orden para estimular la oración y la sencillez. Encarcelado brevemente por un malentendido, escribió parte de su mejor obra espiritual a partir de esta experiencia.

21 de diciembre – San Pedro Canisio (1597). Nacido en Holanda, ingresó en la Sociedad de Jesús y defendió vigorosamente la fe católica mediante sus escritos y su enseñanza. Su obra, el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, sigue todavía en uso hoy.

26 de diciembre – San Esteban (siglo I).

Decano de la Iglesia primitiva, san Esteban predicaba que a Dios se le encuentra en todas partes, no sólo en un lugar como el templo. Enfureció a las autoridades judías y se convirtió en el primer mártir de la Iglesia Católica.

27 de diciembre – La Sagrada Familia (siglo I). En la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia celebramos la vida en familia de Jesús, María y José. Por su amor y por el apoyo que mutuamente se prestaban, la Sagrada Familia es un ejemplo para todas las familias cristianas.



### **P & R** ¿Cómo se benefician los católicos del rezo del Rosario?

El Rosario es una sencilla oración adaptada de los complejos rezos de los monjes medievales. Es una oración poderosa porque en ella pedimos a María—cuyos ruegos jamás son

rechazados—que pida por nosotros. Además, los misterios del Rosario nos dan a conocer la vida de Jesús y de María. Cada misterio se asocia a un fruto. Por ejemplo, el fruto del misterio de la Anunciación es la humildad. El rezo del Rosario nos abre a la

gracia para parecermos más a Cristo.

El Rosario, una plegaria con sus raíces en la Sagrada Escritura, empieza con el Credo de los Apóstoles, que resume los grandes misterios de la fe católica. El Padre Nuestro que introduce cada misterio procede de los evangelios. La primera parte del Ave María que lo sigue procede de las palabras del ángel anunciando el nacimiento de Cristo y del saludo de Isabel a María. San Pío V añadió oficialmente la segunda parte del Ave María.

Las repeticiones en el Rosario tienen la intención de llevarnos a una oración sosegada y contemplativa relacionada con cada misterio. La apacible repetición de las palabras nos ayuda a entrar en el silencio de nuestros corazones, donde habita el espíritu de Cristo. El Rosario puede rezarse en privado o con un grupo de personas.

### Nuestra misión

Proporcionar ideas prácticas que fomenten la vida en la fe católica


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# Advent 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>M</b>ake and bless an Advent wreath with three purple candles and one pink one. Light the first purple candle tonight.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>A</b>dvent is about waiting for the Savior to come. Offer a prayer anytime you have to wait during Advent.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>L</b>et your Bible fall open and contemplate the reading the Holy Spirit puts before you.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>I</b>nclude in your Christmas cards a note about the blessings you have received this year as a witness to God's love.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>O</b>ffer your parish the gift of your time, talent, or treasure. Describe it in a Christmas card and send it to your pastor.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>P</b>ick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Resolve to conquer it during Advent.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>S</b>et a timer or other reminder to help you pray every morning and every evening this month. Continue after Advent.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>L</b>ight two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sit in silence and enjoy the quiet.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>T</b>oday, try to remember stories from the Bible of God's merciful treatment of sinners.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>T</b>oday is the feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrating Mary's birth without Original Sin. In her honor, pray a Rosary.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>S</b>t. Juan Diego was a simple and loving man. In his honor, pray a Rosary to recognize his devotion to Our Blessed Mother.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>T</b>oday, try to go the whole day without complaining.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>T</b>he presence of Jesus in our lives speaks of our hope in God's mercy. Today, list your reasons for hope in the future.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>T</b>o honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a "Hail Mary" whenever you pass it.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>T</b>oday is Gaudete Sunday - the halfway point of Advent. Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>I</b>n honor of St. John of the Cross, offer any suffering or difficulty you experience today to our Savior, Jesus.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>L</b>ight a candle and sit in silence for 15 minutes. Remember for whom it is you are waiting.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>P</b>erform a thorough examination of conscience today. Then attend Confession, if you can, to ready your soul to greet the Savior.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>P</b>ut a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>P</b>ray for the men and women in the armed services who won't be able to spend Christmas with their families.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>E</b>ven if you live alone, put up a Christmas tree. Put just a few ornaments on each day and finish up on Christmas Eve.</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>L</b>ight all four candles in the Advent Wreath tonight and all week. Reread today's Gospel reading, <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>M</b>ake time today to feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or one who is hungry for kindness, too.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>C</b>hoose a candle as your "Jesus Candle." Light it every night until Christmas to remind you of the light Jesus brings.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>T</b>ake a drive or a walk around your home to look at the Christmas decorations. Let yourself get swept up in the excitement of the season.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>S</b>et up your Nativity scene. Picture yourself in the scene and think about how you would act if you were there.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>R</b>ejoice! Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20. Think about how joyful it will be to finally meet Jesus when he comes.</p>	



# Adviento 2020

Domingo	Lunes	Martes	Miércoles	Jueves	Viernes	Sábado
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>H</b>aga o compre una corona de Adviento y bendígalala. Encienda la primera vela morada todas las noches de la semana que entra.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>C</b>uando tenga que estar esperando aproveche para rezar una oración simple que comience con una alabanza.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>D</b>eje que la Biblia se abra sola y contemple la lectura que el Espíritu Santo ha puesto frente a usted.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>E</b>n las tarjetas de Navidad de incluya un comentario sobre los bendiciones que ha recibido este año. Servirá de testimonio del amor de Dios.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>O</b>frezca a su parroquia el regalo de su tiempo, talento y tesoro. Describa en una tarjeta de Navidad y envíarlo a su pastor.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>E</b>scoja un mal hábito que lo aleja de la santidad. Haga el propósito de superarlo durante el Adviento.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>E</b>stablecer un reloj que le ayudarán a orar cada mañana y cada tarde este mes. Continuar después de Adviento.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>E</b>ncienda dos velas moradas de la corona de Adviento. Siéntese y disfrute la quietud.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>R</b>ecuerda las historias de la Biblia de trato misericordioso de Dios a los pecadores.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>P</b>ara honrar la Inmaculada Concepción de María. Vaya a Misa y rece un rosario.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>E</b>n honor a San Juan Diego hoy, prepare tacos y piense sobre la sencillez de su fe y su obediencia.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>E</b>vite quejarse todo el día.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>L</b>a presencia de Jesucristo en nuestras vidas habla de nuestra esperanza. Haga hoy una lista de las razones que le dan esperanza en el futuro.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>C</b>ompre una rosa hoy para honrar a Nuestra Señora de la Guadalupe. Ella usó esa sencilla flor para llevarles esperanza a millones.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>H</b>oy es Domingo de Gaudete la mitad del camino de Adviento. Encienda dos velas moradas y la rosada de la alegría.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>E</b>n honor a San Juan de la Cruz ofrezcale a Jesucristo cualquier padecimiento que sufra hoy.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>E</b>ncienda un vela y siéntese en silencio para quince minutos. Recuerde a quién espera.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>R</b>ealizar un examen exhaustivo de hoy la conciencia. Luego asistir a la confesión, si es posible, para preparar su alma para recibir a Jesucristo.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>P</b>onga una lámpara o una vela eléctrica en una ventana para darle la bienvenida al Niño Jesús. Encéndala todas las noches hasta el día de Navidad.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>R</b>ece por los hombres y mujeres en las fuerzas armadas que no podrán pasar la Navidad con sus familias.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>A</b>unque viva solo, ponga un arbolito de Navidad y adórnalo. Poner sólo algunos adornos en cada día y terminar el día de Nochebuena.</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>E</b>ncienda las cuatro velas de la corona de Adviento esta noche y todas las noches. Lea de nuevo el pasaje del Evangelio para hoy, <i>San Lucas 1:26-38</i>.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>H</b>aga tiempo hoy para darle de comer al hambriento. Busque a alguien que está físicamente hambriento o que tiene hambre de bondad, también.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>E</b>scoja o adorne una vela especial como su "velón de Jesús". Encéndalo todos los días hasta Navidad para recordarle la luz que Jesucristo nos trae.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>V</b>aya a pasear en carro o a pie por su casa para ver los adornos de Navidad en las calles y jardines.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>P</b>onga su nacimiento o pesebre e imagínese en la escena. Piense en cómo actuaría si estuviese allí.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>¡F</b>elicidad! Lea la historia del nacimiento de Jesús en San Lucas 2:1-20.</p>	



# ADVENT

## SAYING "YES" TO GOD

The will of God is to make each of us "full of grace," just like Mary. A wonderfully appropriate Scripture passage for Advent, the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) is a main part of the Christmas story.

Christ became human because Mary was willing to yield to "the power of the Most High." Without Mary's assent at the Annunciation, God's plan for the Incarnation would have had to unfold another way. Mary's cooperation was essential, for God does not force his creatures to bend to his will. Rather, we are invited to cooperate with grace.

Mary serves as a model for each of us who have also been invited to cooperate with God's transforming presence. Christ can only be born in us if we, like Mary, are willing to say "Yes" to God's invitation and open ourself to the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we are all called to nurture and give birth to Jesus so that he may be born anew in our hearts and in our world.

## ADVENT: THE SEASON OF AFFIRMATIONS

When Mary said "Yes" to God, Christmas became possible. She agreed to bear Jesus in her womb. During Advent, each one of us needs to be able to say our own "Yes" to God as we prepare to celebrate Christmas—and bear Jesus in our hearts.

**YES to what has been...** We affirm that Jesus was truly the Son of God, our Emmanuel, God-With-Us. We also believe that through his life, death and resurrection, he saved us from sin and death. Advent is a time for us to acknowledge that Christ came to save us, and he did just that by his dying and rising.

**YES to what is...** God is with us in all the joys and the sorrows of our lives. More than just a random collection of

atoms, our lives are blessings given to us by God according to the divine plan. Advent prepares us to celebrate the presence of God in our lives and in the lives of other people, especially the poor.

**YES to whatever will be...** Lord of time itself, God presides over the future, each tomorrow as well as every millennium. As we yearn for the full coming of the kingdom of God, our desire for the coming of Christ gets renewed in Advent.





## THE “O ANTIPHONS”

The **O Antiphons** refer to the seven verses that are recited (or chanted) preceding the *Magnificat* during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23. These antiphons form the basis of the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” put to music in 15th century France.

**December 17**—*O Wisdom*, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

**December 18**—*O Sacred Lord* of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

**December 19**—*O Flower of Jesse's Stem*, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

**December 20**—*O Key of David*, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

**December 21**—*O Radiant Dawn*, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

**December 22**—*O King* of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

**December 23**—*O Emmanuel*, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

### MASS READINGS FOR ADVENT 2020

**1st Sunday**..... Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7;  
1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

**2nd Sunday**..... Is 40:1-5, 9-11;  
2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**3rd Sunday**..... Is 61:1-2a, 10-11;  
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**4th Sunday**..... 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;  
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**Christmas Day**..... Is 52:7-10;  
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

## THE SYMBOLS OF ADVENT

The **Advent Wreath** and the **Colors of Advent** are probably the most popular symbols of the season. The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches where four candles (and often a fifth, in the center) are arranged. During Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each week representing the coming of the Lord. The first, second and fourth weeks' candles are **violet**, the primary color of Advent, symbolizing royalty as we await the birth of Jesus Christ our King. The **rose** colored candle used during the third week represents joy as Christmas draws nearer. If used, **white** is the color of the center candle, representing the purity of Christ.

Another symbol, **The Jesse Tree** represents the family tree of Christ as a member of the royal family of King David, whose father was Jesse. Through this family history (see Mt 1:6-16), the story of God's salvation plan is recalled in the royal line from Jesse to the coming of the Messiah. Each day of Advent a homemade ornament is added to the Jesse Tree, a small tree made of evergreen branches. These symbolic ornaments each represent a family member, event or prophecy that moves God's plan to fulfillment in Jesus.



## FEASTS OF MARY DURING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### Immaculate Conception

December 8

Mary, conceived through an act of love by her mother and father, was born free of original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. This special privilege was conferred on her through God's grace in anticipation of the Redemption.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

This feast celebrates the apparition of Mary to Juan Diego in the hills near Mexico City in 1531. Diego's cloak bore the image of Mary and has become Mexico's most popular religious symbol. This appearance encouraged native peoples to embrace Christianity.

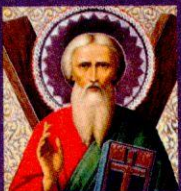
### Mary, Mother of God

January 1

The Council of Ephesus (431), one of the earliest councils of the Church, declared that Christ was divine as well as human and that Mary, therefore, could be called not only as “the Mother of Jesus,” but also as “the Mother of God.”



# Saints FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020



## NOVEMBER 30 ST. ANDREW

Born in Galilee, Andrew was the sibling of Simon Peter, and like his brother, was a fisherman by trade. During his lifetime, he became a disciple of John the Baptist, one of the Twelve Apostles, likely the first of Christ's disciples. Andrew and his brother are recorded in the New Testament as having been declared "fishers of men" as Jesus observed them and called them to discipleship. Andrew was martyred in Greece in 60 AD.



## DECEMBER 3 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

One of the original seven members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Francis was sent as a missionary to the East Indies and Japan (1540). He spent his time preaching, instructing, baptizing and establishing missions for those who were to follow him. His preaching and example led to hundreds of thousands of converts. Canonized in 1602, he is the patron of all foreign missions.



## DECEMBER 4 ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

Born in Damascus, after a mostly theological education he accepted a position with the ruling Arabs, which he resigned to become a monk and later a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas, near Jerusalem. The last of the Greek Fathers of the Church, John was a renowned homilist and scholar whose work greatly influenced later theologians. Named doctor of the Church in 1890.

## DECEMBER 7 ST. AMBROSE

Ambrose excelled in law, literature and rhetoric, and was a renowned preacher, teacher and pastor. He famously stood up to the Roman emperor for interfering in Church doctrine and practice. He also influenced the conversion of St. Augustine, whom he baptized (386). He was named one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church (1298).



## DECEMBER 11 ST. DAMASUS I

Damasus became pope (366) and during his long pontificate Christianity was declared the official religion of the Roman state. Damasus was an active builder and restorer of churches. He made Latin the language of the liturgy, spoke out against major heresies in the church and is remembered for what became known as the church's officially declared version.





#### DECEMBER 9 ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATZIN

In 1531, Mary appeared to Mexican peasant Juan Diego at Guadalupe, Mexico. When the bishop questioned Juan's account, Mary told Juan to gather flowers and give them to the bishop. When he did so, roses fell from his cloak, revealing a painted image of the Lady of Guadalupe. This relic is now preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002.



#### DECEMBER 14 ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

Born in poverty, at 21 John entered the Carmelites and was ordained a priest (1567). With St. Teresa of Avila he helped reform his order and create the reformed (Discalced) Carmelites. Canonized in 1726, he was named a doctor of the Church (1926). In his published works, John describes the spiritual life as a journey of the soul to divine union.



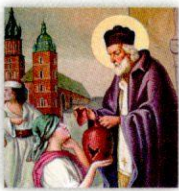
#### DECEMBER 21 ST. PETER CANISIUS

Born in Holland, he joined the Jesuits (1543) and worked in southern Germany, Austria, Bohemia and Switzerland as a leader of the Catholic Counter-Reformation. Noted for his scholarship and theological insight, his preaching and teaching, he developed popular and influential catechisms for both adults and children. He was canonized and declared doctor of the Church (1925).



#### DECEMBER 23 ST. JOHN OF KANTY

John was born in Kanty, Poland. A popular teacher and preacher, he was noted for his simple lifestyle and love for the poor, especially needy university students. He was buried in the Collegiate Church of St. Anne, where his tomb became and remains a popular pilgrimage site. He was named patron of Poland and canonized in 1767.



#### DECEMBER 26 ST. STEPHEN

His story is told in Acts chapters 6–7. He is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen by the 12 apostles to minister to the Greek-speaking Christians in the Jerusalem community. When the Jews accused him of blasphemy, he defended himself by recalling God's guidance throughout Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. Stoned to death by an angry mob he is the first recorded martyr of the New Testament.



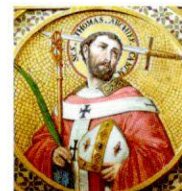
#### DECEMBER 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

This feast commemorates the boys slain instead of Jesus by King Herod the Great (Mt 2:16-18) to eliminate the threat to his throne from the newborn king. In contrast to the Magi's welcome, Herod's murderous rage foreshadows the opposition that Jesus will later meet, culminating in his crucifixion by the Romans. To escape Herod's massacre, the holy family became refugees in Egypt.



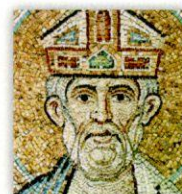
#### DECEMBER 29 ST. THOMAS BECKET

Born in London, Becket was ordained a deacon, named Lord Chancellor of England and Archbishop of Canterbury by King Henry II in 1162. After disagreeing with the king on the Church's independence, he fled to France. After his return he and the king clashed again and in a fit of rage was murdered by the king's men in Canterbury cathedral. He was quickly declared a saint (1173), and Canterbury became a popular pilgrimage site.



#### DECEMBER 31 ST. SYLVESTER I

Sylvester was elected pope in 314 shortly after the emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan (313) which for the first time granted the Christian religion official recognition and allowed public worship. During his 21 year pontificate as formal Church and state relations began to develop, large public churches like St. John Lateran were built by the emperor and other benefactors.





# 2020

# What Does Advent Say?

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

29 1ST SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT

The PROPHETS say...

Look for the day of the Lord!



30

The prophets say, "This is the day!" Some prophets looked for a day of justice. Some prophets looked for a day of mercy.

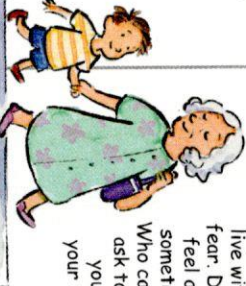
1

All the prophets looked for the day God's ways would be followed by all people. Ask your family: "How do we follow God's ways together?"



2

"On that day it will be said, this is the Lord for whom we looked. Let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" Isaiah 25:9



3

This is the day God wants all people to live without fear. Do you feel afraid sometimes? Who can you ask to help you with your fear?

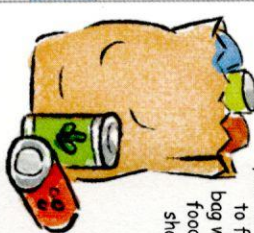
4

How can you get ready for Christmas celebration with family and friends? Could you learn a new song, write a holiday poem or read to a friend?



5

God wants all people to be free of hunger. Ask your family to fill a bag with food to share.



6 2ND SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT

JOHN THE BAPTIST says...



Prepare the way!

7

"In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" Isaiah 40:3.



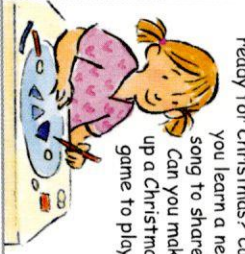
8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus. God prepared Jesus by choosing his mother—before she was born!



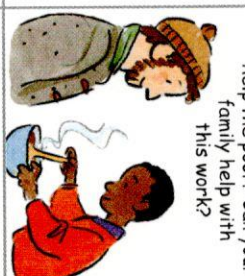
9

Advent is a time to prepare—a time to get ready. How will you get ready for Christmas? Can you learn a new song to share? Can you make up a Christmas game to play?



10

One way to share with the needy is to give our time. Does your parish help the poor? Can your family help with this work?



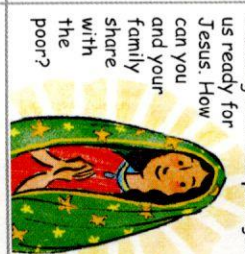
11

Talk with your family about your hopes for Christmas. Do you want time with friends or family? Is there something you wish you could do with mom or dad?



12

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Our Lady reminds us that standing with the poor gets us ready for Jesus. How can you and your family share with the poor?



13 3RD SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT

JOSEPH says...

Let us go to the City of David!



14

Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Will you travel this Christmas? Will travelers come to you? Pray for safe travels for all!



15

Good thoughts can travel. Make a Christmas card to travel to a relative.



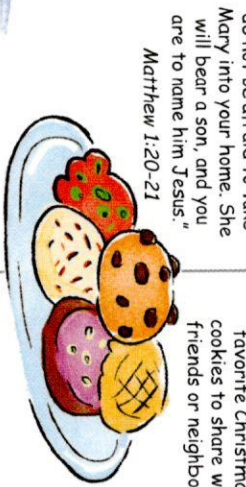
16

Kindness travels with a smile. Does your family have a friend or family member in a retirement community or nursing home? This is a good week for a visit.



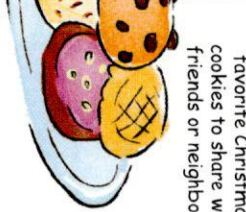
17

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus." Matthew 1:20-21



18

Food can travel, too! Make a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with friends or neighbors.



19

Prayers travel most quickly of all. Finish these 2 short prayers: "God, please help me..." "God, thank you for..."



20 4TH SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT

MARY says...



To us a child is born!

21

Ask your family to tell you the story of how you were born. Just like the birth of Jesus, your birth was part of God's plan for all time!



22

Make some hot cocoa to share! Sip with family and friends while listening to Christmas Carols.



23

Mary shows us how to get ready for Jesus. When God asked her to be the mother, Mary said, "Yes!"



24

Ask your family: What is God asking of us? How can we say "yes?"



25

CHRISTMAS DAY

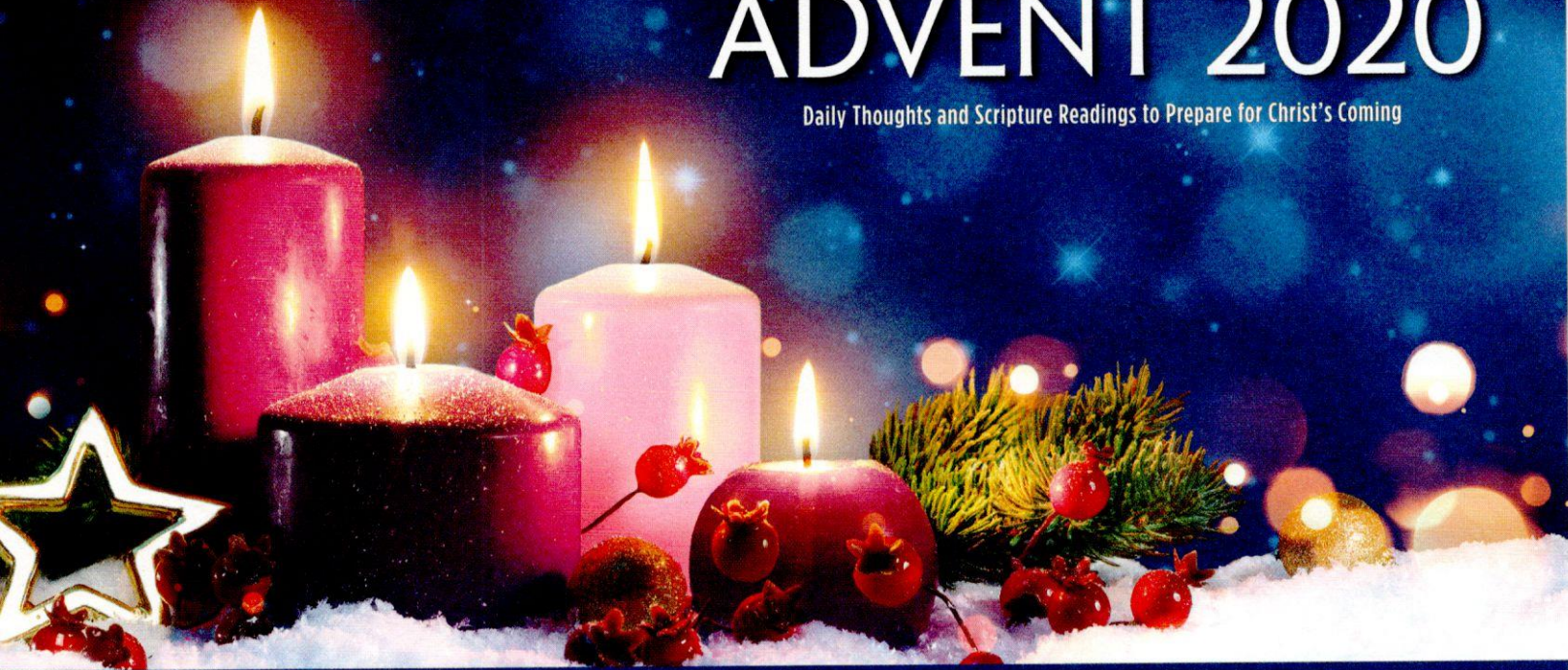
Good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord! —Luke 2:11





# ADVENT 2020

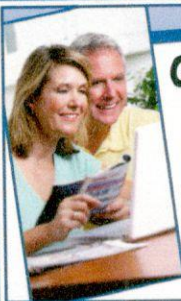
Daily Thoughts and Scripture Readings to Prepare for Christ's Coming



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29</b> November <b>Watch and Pray</b> Let us watch because we don't know when God will come to us. <i>Mark 13:35-36</i>	<b>30</b> St. Andrew <b>Come to Heal Us</b> Ask Jesus to heal us from our all sickness and sin. <i>Matthew 8:8</i>	<b>1</b> December <b>Reveal Yourself</b> Let us model ourselves on Jesus who reveals God to us. <i>Luke 10:22</i>	<b>2</b> <b>Have Mercy</b> Like Jesus, may we be filled with compassion for those in need. <i>Matthew 15:22</i>	<b>3</b> St. Francis Xavier <b>Listen to His Words</b> Take extra time today to read and pray about Jesus's words. <i>Matthew 7:24</i>	<b>4</b> St. John Damascene <b>Do Not Fear</b> Trust in Jesus to draw us nearer to God today. <i>Psalms 27:1</i>	<b>5</b> <b>God's Kingdom Is Near</b> Invite God to rule in our hearts and change our lives. <i>Matthew 10:7-8</i>
<b>6</b> <b>Prepare a Way</b> God wants to draw near to us so let us prepare for God's coming. <i>Mark 1:2-3</i>	<b>7</b> St. Ambrose <b>Your Sins Are Forgiven</b> Ask Jesus to forgive our sins and then forgive others. <i>Luke 5:20</i>	<b>8</b> Immaculate Conception <b>Comfort Others</b> Reach out today to help others who are in need at this time. <i>Isaiah 40:1</i>	<b>9</b> St. Juan Diego <b>Remember God's Gifts</b> Thank God today for the many gifts that we have received. <i>Psalms 10:1</i>	<b>10</b> <b>Ask God's Help</b> Trust God to help with all our fears and difficulties. <i>Isaiah 41:13</i>	<b>11</b> St. Damasus I <b>Lead Us, Lord</b> Ask Jesus to lead us on our journey back to God. <i>Isaiah 48:18</i>	<b>12</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe <b>Heed the Warnings</b> Be more attentive today to see the signs of Jesus' coming. <i>Matthew 17:11-12</i>
<b>13</b> <b>Rejoice, God Is Near!</b> Let us notice the signs of God's activity in our lives today. <i>1 Thessalonians 5:16</i>	<b>14</b> St. John of the Cross <b>Teach Me Your Ways</b> Listen to Jesus who daily leads us nearer to God. <i>Psalms 25:4-5</i>	<b>15</b> <b>Think of Others</b> Like Jesus, let us reach out to the poor and brokenhearted. <i>Psalms 34:19</i>	<b>16</b> <b>Jesus the Promised One</b> Thank Jesus who comes to heal and save us from evil. <i>Luke 7:22-23</i>	<b>17</b> <b>Bless the Lord</b> Thank God whose plan for salvation is now happening through Jesus. <i>Psalms 72:2</i>	<b>18</b> <b>God with Us</b> Pay more attention to God's presence in us and our world. <i>Matthew 1:23</i>	<b>19</b> <b>Hope in the Lord</b> Hope and trust that God will respond to our deepest longings. <i>Psalms 71:5-6</i>
<b>20</b> <b>Let it Be!</b> Like Mary, let us bring Jesus to birth in our hearts today. <i>Luke 1:38</i>	<b>21</b> St. Peter Canisius <b>Blessed Are You!</b> Like Elizabeth, let us extend ourselves to others and share our joy. <i>Luke 1:41-42</i>	<b>22</b> <b>Proclaim God's Goodness</b> Share with others today how God has acted in our lives. <i>Luke 1:46</i>	<b>23</b> St. John of Kanty <b>He Is Coming</b> Open our hearts to welcome Jesus and invite him to remain with us. <i>Psalms 25:4-5</i>	<b>24</b> <b>He Comes to Set Us Free</b> Rejoice that Jesus comes to change our lives forever. <i>Luke 1:67</i>	<b>25</b> Christmas <b>Our Savior Is Born</b> Give thanks for Jesus who has become human to dwell with us. <i>John 1:14</i>	



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