

Knights of Columbus Newsletter Council 13391 November 23, 2022 Wednesday Special Edition

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Prayer for Thanksgiving Day

Heavenly Father, we gather together today with hearts filled with gratitude. This meal we share reminds us of the endless blessings You've bestowed upon us. We pray in thanksgiving not only for this food we share, but in all the ways You've shown us Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

<https://hallow.com/blog/thanksgiving-prayer/#:~:text=We%20give%20You%20thanks%20most,Amen>

Bless us O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Advent Season Begins this Sunday

Advent marks the start of a season of preparation that looks forward to the celebration of Christmas and the second coming of Christ. It is a time of

reflection in preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ—we remember how our Savior humbled Himself to be born as a baby and live among those He would save. We remember the perfect life He lived doing the will of His Father, His sacrificial death on the cross, and how He was raised from the dead three days later, having paid the penalty to save all who would believe. Christians remember Jesus' promise to return again one day and restore everything fully. This season invokes feelings of expectation and hope! The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “arrival” or “coming” from the word *advenire* (ad- “to” venire “come”). Advent is a reminder of how the Jewish people waited for the Messiah and how Christians wait for the second coming of Christ today.

It’s the most wonderful time of year, isn’t it? And while some scoff at carols being sung on the radio before December 1, Christians throughout history have embraced this season of spiritual preparation using Advent readings—short Bible passages read during the lighting of the [Advent wreath](#). This sacred time invites us to slow down from all the holiday preparations and parties, take a deep breath, and remember the reason for the season: the eternal Jesus Christ taking on human flesh. But how do all the different parts of [Advent](#) work together, and how can you incorporate Advent into your church or family life?



The Advent Wreath

The most common Advent candle tradition involves four candles around the wreath. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored.

Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple color symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.



The Candle of Hope

Like the prophets in the [Old Testament](#), we hope for a Messiah to save us from the sin in the world ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#)). We anticipate our Savior's arrival.

Also known as the "[prophecy candle](#)," this first candle assures us we can have hope that God will fulfill the [prophecies](#) declared in the Old Testament about Jesus. Hope doesn't disappoint us ([Romans 5:5](#)).

Biblical Hope

But the [biblical sense of hope](#) is different. Hope, in the Bible, exists as a secure assurance, a trust placed in a trustworthy God. God has not failed us in the past, and therefore, if he claims he will do something in the future, we can have a hope that he will fulfill that claim. Hope waits and endures. It isn't flimsy or merely wishful thinking. It can withstand fire, trials, and despair.

Like the prophets, we also hope. We hope Jesus will return soon to this dark and despairing world.



“Giving thanks warms the soul and reminds us that life is an extraordinary privilege. Joy doesn’t come from having, but from appreciating what we have.”

MATTHEW KELLY
Seven Levels of Intimacy

Advent Wreath Prayer Week 1 — Hope

Heavenly Father, Advent is a time for remembering and reflecting on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn’t the beginning of that message of hope because the old testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus’ birth in scripture.

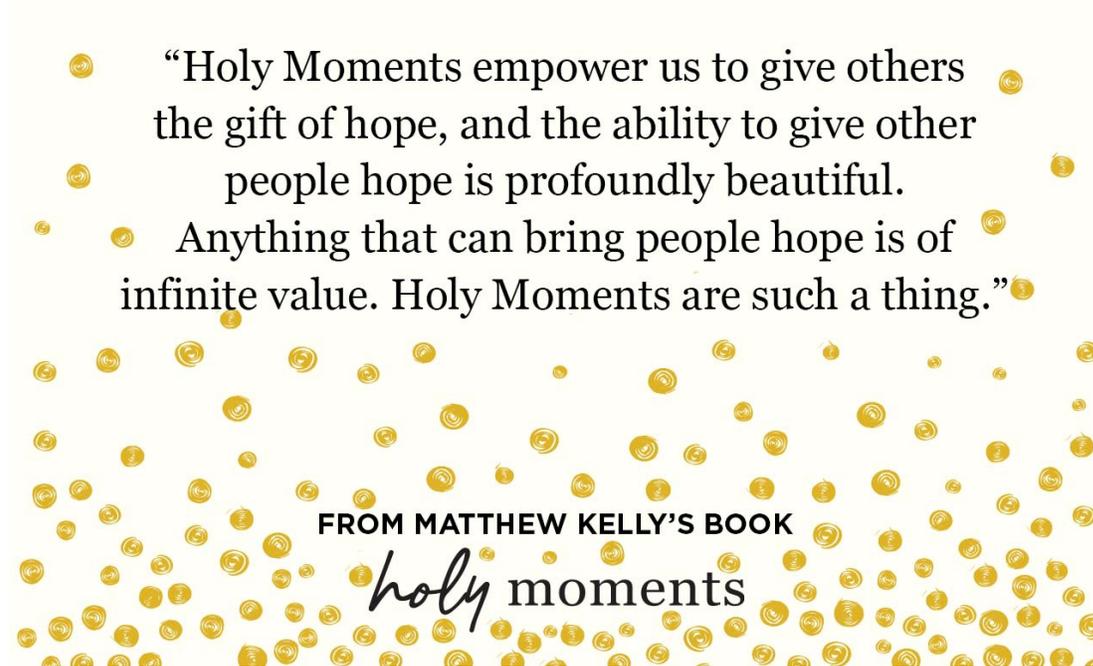
You showed us a glimmer of that hope as you chose to send your son into this earth through a family tree that was a little bent and scarred. We glanced it again as you chose a tribe that was small and a city that was lowly. It can be seen when we recognize that you don’t send your Son to be birthed in a fancy palace among the wealthy and the elite, but our King of Kings and Lord of Lords was born among common shepherds and livestock in a barn.

Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the [salvation](#) that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe on your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

The above information was taken from this link and there is additional Advent information at this link:

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-advent.html>

Coming this Christmas, a book giveaway for all parishioners



The Knights of Columbus approved the purchase of a book by Matthew Kelly titled *Holy Moments*. This book will be given to all parishioners after the Masses at Christmas.

Here are some videos by Matthew Kelly from his book, *Life is Messy*.

Closer Than You Think - Matthew Kelly - Life is Messy (10:11)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p7U2RpgrAE&list=PLgCGT7nNXGY5vHCBDBJAcKuP3aPy_Aod0&index=11

The Great Re-humanization - Matthew Kelly - Life is Messy (8:18)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JujYZHbDsx0&list=PLgCGT7nNXGY5vHCBDBJAcKuP3aPy_Aod0&index=12

Ambassadors of Hope - Matthew Kelly - Life is Messy
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Docm2eulCc&list=PLgCGT7nNXGY5vHCBDBJAcKuP3aPy_Aod0&index=13

Life is Difficult - Matthew Kelly - Life is Messy (5:00)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPzSkZ96Q2U&list=PLgCGT7nNXGY5vHCBDBJAcKuP3aPy_Aod0&index=14

Just for the Joy of It - Matthew Kelly - Life is Messy (3:59)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTwdGd01cxY&list=PLgCGT7nNXGY5vHCBDBJAcKuP3aPy_Aod0&index=15

We will be celebrating the First Sunday of Advent on Saturday, November 26th and Sunday, November 27th



Optional Song: Wait for the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7GexIvX8HU>

Use this link to read this Sunday's reading: <https://young-catholics.com/3697/1st-sunday-of-advent-year-a/>

Several other Advent activities at this link besides the Sunday readings.

Use his link to reach the Loyola Commentary on the Sunday Gospel <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/first-sunday-of-advent-cycle-a-sunday-connection/>

Use this link to reach the Loyola Commentary for Families on the Sunday Gospel <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/first-sunday-of-advent-cycle-a-sunday-connection/> Click on Family

Optional Song: Stay Awake, Be Ready

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cb3JPFQ1PE>

Use this link to watch a video on Matthew 24: 1-51 <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/lumo-the-gospel-of-matthew.html/lumo-matthew-24-1-51/english.html>

Use this link to listen to Bishop Barron's homily from the achieves at Word on Fire.org

<https://www.wordonfire.org/videos/sermons/getting-the-house-in-order/>

We come once again to Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year and the great season of waiting. Christ's life has a permanent Advent quality, for we are always expecting the coming of the Lord. Now, Jesus came, he will definitely come, and he is coming even now – for the risen Lord wants to take us residence in us today. So, Advent is, perhaps most immediately, a preparation for that coming; we are getting ourselves ready to receive the Christ who wants, even now, to be born in us. Well, how do we do this? Our readings for the first Sunday of Advent give us some wonderful instruction.

Living the Word

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Focus: Enter the season of Advent by preparing your life to welcome Christ.

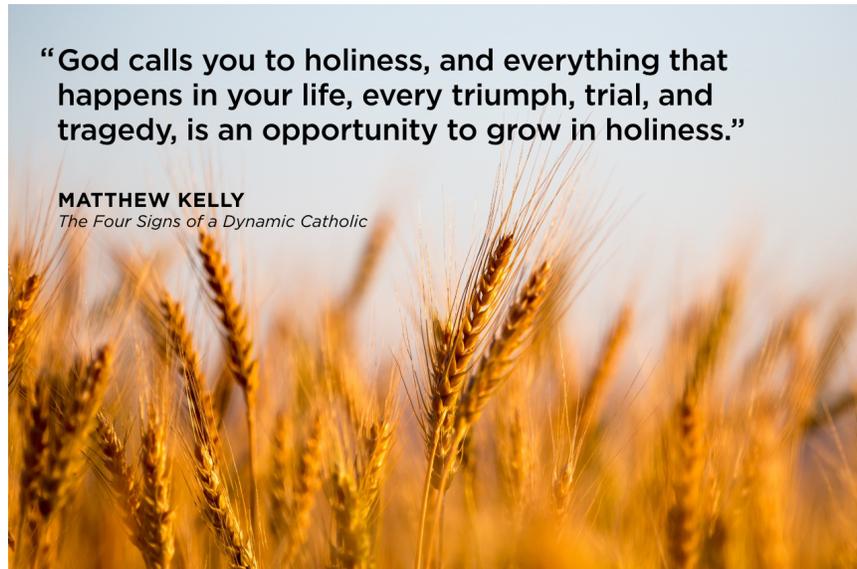


Reflection: The Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent instructs us to “stay awake’ so that we aren’t unprepared for Christ’s return, but it isn’t always clear to us what that looks like in our lives. The Church has some guidance, of course: we should avoid sin and receive the sacraments so our souls are ready for an eternity with God, who is perfect love and goodness. How else can we be ready? The examples Jesus gives in the Gospel readings provide a few hints.

Christ’s return will come as a surprise, like the flood in the story of Noah. Like the people in Noah’s time, we will be caught unprepared if we let ourselves be consumed by shallow pleasures and distractions. It is so easy to forget that we have a greater purpose in our lives than making ourselves feel good! We are to stay awake like the homeowner on watch against a thief in the night. The thief that breaks into our homes is only interested in our possessions, but if we go through life distracted or dull our consciences to sleep, we risk losing something more precious and difficult to replace than any material thing: our integrity.

Action: Advent begins with a reminder that we need to prepare for Christ’s second coming in much the same way we now await the celebration on Christ’s birth. In the midst of decorations, parties, and gift buying of secular Christmas preparations, traditions like the Advent wreath or Jesse tree remind us to pause and prepare our hearts to welcome Christ. Both of these practices usually include

daily scripture readings to help keep our hearts and minds focused on Christ and not get distracted by commercial Christmas.



Questions:

1. How does your family prepare for Christmas? Your parish? Your School?
2. What are the similarities between preparing to welcome Christ and preparing for a disaster like theft or a flood? What are the differences?
3. Why do you think Jesus makes it abundantly clear that we will not know when the world is going to end?
4. What are some specific things you can do now to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ?
5. What can you do to prepare by paying attention to your moral and spiritual lives?
6. Most of us will die before the second coming of Christ. Yet none of us know the time or place when we will be asked to account for how we have lived as a disciple of Jesus. Why not take the time each night to examine how you have done during the day spreading love to others and building up the kingdom of God?

Closing Prayer Gracious God, you provide the signs of the times for us to read. Help us in our efforts to bring peace to fearful neighbors and friends, assuring them of your faithfulness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugV6QGcafEE>