

Heavenly Father,

Inflame our hearts with the fire of your love. Inspire our families to eagerly say "yes" to the Holy Spirit, as did Mary and Joseph. Help our parishes become schools of prayer, forming intentional disciples of Jesus who desire to live for him.

Assist us in building a culture of vocations, creating an environment where all disciples will seek your will for their lives.

Teach married couples to live their vocation in the Spirit of Christ so that their families may become a "domestic Church", reflecting the life of the Trinity.

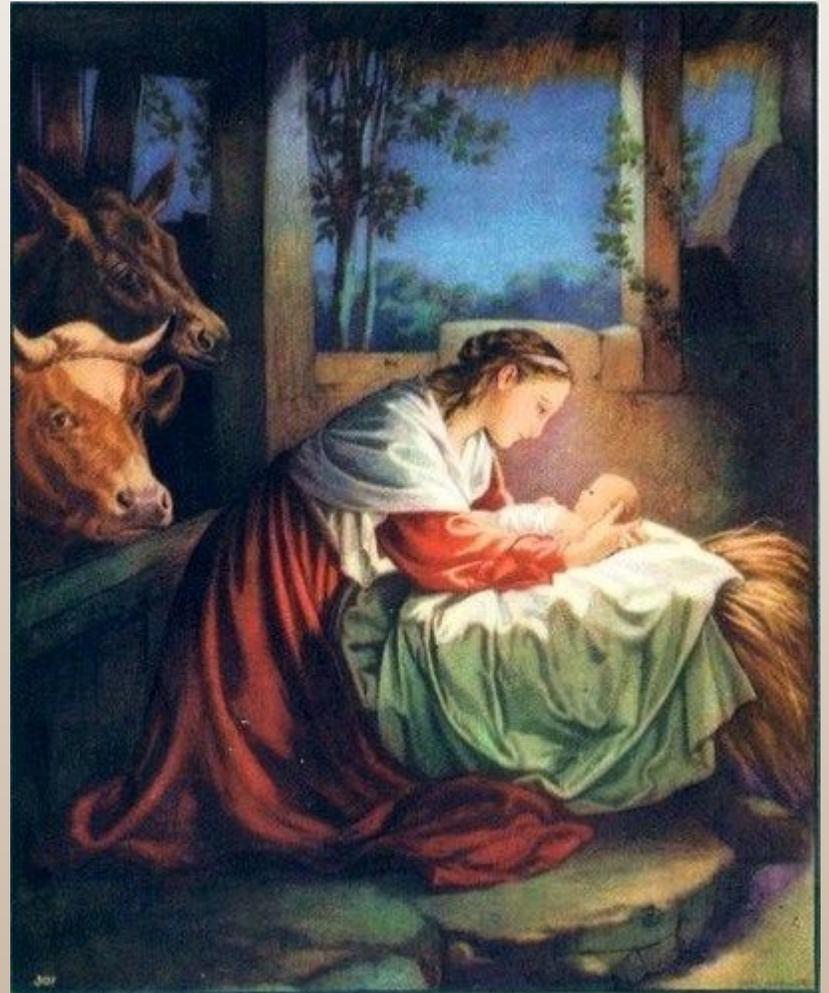
Inspire young men and women to seek a living encounter with your Son so that they will courageously respond to your call to priesthood or consecrated life, giving themselves generously to the Church in service of the Gospel.

We ask Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, to intercede for us. Pour out anew upon our diocese your Holy Spirit and make us courageous witnesses of Christ's love. May our lives "attract and form intentional disciples who joyfully, boldly and lovingly proclaim and live the mission of Jesus Christ, leading to eternal life."

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

With the Advent wreath, we prepare for the coming of the True Light into the World. A circular wreath represents the eternity and constant presence of God. The greenery represents the eternal life He promises us in Christ. The candles represent our waiting for the Messiah and His coming into the world as the Light of the World, filling our darkness with His marvelous Light. Ask a priest to bless the wreath.

The first week of Advent, one candle is lit, the second week, two candles, the third week, three, the fourth week, four. Three candles are violet (weeks 1, 2 and 4). Violet is the color of this liturgical season, representing the spirit of penance and prayer by which we prepare for His coming. Violet is also the color of royalty, representing the kingship of Christ. The candle for the third week is rose, for "Gaudete Sunday." *Gaudete* is a Latin word from the entrance antiphon of this Sunday's Mass, meaning "rejoice," and this week marks our joyful anticipation, our *rejoicing* at the coming of Christ. During the Christmas season, a fifth white candle in the center of the wreath is lit. This is the Christ candle, representing His Presence among us.



# Advent 2017

## Prayers for Vocations

# ADVENT PRAYER FORMAT

*Gather around the Advent wreath. All make the sign of the cross. Someone lights the candles while the opening prayer is prayed:*

*Leader:* Prepare the way of the Lord.

*All:* **Make straight his paths.**

*The reader reads the Scripture of the day on the following pages.*

*Intercessions:*

*Leader:* Lord, bless all priests and consecrated men and women, grant them grace to lay down their lives for you every day, we pray to the Lord.

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord, bless all married couples, grant them grace to help one another on the way to holiness and to raise their children to be open to your call and give their lives fully to you, we pray to the Lord.

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord, bless all who are discerning your call, guide them on the path and give them the grace they need to follow you wherever you lead, we pray to the Lord.

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord, grant us many holy vocations to priesthood and consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord, open our hearts to receive you as we prepare this Advent for your coming at Christmas, we pray to the Lord.

*All:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The group may add their own intercessions.*

*Then all pray the Prayer for Vocations (on back cover)*

*Together, everyone prays the prayer of the day.*

*Leader:* Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

*All:* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader:* Saint N. (saint of the day or any saints you wish)

*All:* **Pray for us.**

*Close with the **Our Father** and the sign of the cross.*

**Fri, Dec. 22:**

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

*Father, grant parents the grace to give their children to you, and to rejoice when one is called to priesthood or consecrated life, and guide us all to abandon ourselves to you in every way.*

**Sat, Dec. 23, St. John of Kanty:**

"Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths." (Ps 25:4)

*Lord, show me your path, that I may walk it.*

## ADVENT WEEK 4

**Sun., Dec. 24, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun of Advent:**

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38)

*Mary, intercede for us that we may submit to our Father's will as you did—let it be done to me according to his word.*

## CHRISTMAS

**Mon, Dec. 25, Christmas:**

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." (Lk 2:10-11)

*Father, thank you for the gift of your Son. Keep us always close to him, that we may live for him in every moment. Keep all priests, consecrated persons, and married couples close to him, that they may live for him in every moment, and grant us many more holy priests and consecrated persons.*

## ADVENT WEEK 3

### Sun, Dec. 17, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of Advent:

"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." (Jn 1:26-27)

*Lord, we rejoice in you! We give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit—help us to live out fully the gifts of your Spirit.*

### Mon, Dec. 18:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke, he did as the Lord had commanded him..." (Mt 1:23-24)

*St. Joseph, you remained faithful to the Lord always—strengthen married couples and help us to follow your example and give all to the One who has given all to us.*

### Tues, Dec. 19:

"For you are my hope, O Lord, my trust, O God, from my youth. On you I depend from birth; from my mother's womb you are my strength." (Ps 71:5-6)

*Lord, guide all parents to live lives faithful to you, that they may raise their children to depend on you, to turn to you for strength, and to follow you always in everything.*

### Wed., Dec. 20:

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38)

*Mary, intercede for us that we may submit to our Father's will as you did—let it be done to me according to his word.*

### Thurs, Dec. 21, St. Peter Canisius:

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Lk 1:45)

*Father, I believe that you will accomplish your will in me. Grant me the grace to follow where you lead.*

## DAILY ADVENT PRAYERS

### ADVENT WEEK 1

#### Sun, Dec. 3, 1<sup>st</sup> Sun of Advent:

"You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever." (Is 63:16b)

*God, our Father, your desire only our good. Teach us to trust you and in your plan for our lives.*

#### Mon, Dec. 4, St. John of Damascus:

"Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." (Isa 2:3)

*Father, we come to you. Teach us and guide us on the path you have marked out for our lives. Lord, we trust in you.*

#### Tues, Dec. 5:

"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it." (Lk 10:23-24)

*Jesus, you have shown us the Father. Help us now to hear your call for our lives and to follow it faithfully.*

#### Wed, Dec. 6, St. Nicholas:

"You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name... You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows" (Ps 23:3,5)

*Lord Jesus, you are the way. Give me the grace to follow you on the way.*

#### Thurs, Dec. 7, St. Ambrose:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Mt 7:21)

*Lord, my Rock, my Refuge, I want to do your will. Open my heart, that I may do whatever you ask of me.*

**Fri, Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception:**

"In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will... we who first hoped in Christ." (Eph 1:11-12)

*Lord, you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son, and she followed you faithfully. Help me to do the part in your plan for which you have chosen me.*

**Sat, Dec. 9, St. Juan Diego:**

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." (Mt 9:37-38)

*Father, send us holy priests and consecrated men and women, and guide me to labor for your harvest every day.*

**ADVENT WEEK 2**

**Sun, Dec. 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of Advent:**

"I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land." (Ps. 85:8-9)

*Come Holy Spirit! Teach us to listen to what God proclaims. May the peace He gives settle deeply into our hearts.*

**Mon, Dec. 11, St. Damasus I:**

"Be strong, fear not! Here is your God... he comes to save you." (Is 35:4)

*Jesus, our Savior, give me the boldness to follow you fearlessly—in priesthood, in consecrated life, or in married life, as you call me—to give everything, as you did to save me.*

**Tues, Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe:**

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Lk 1:46-47)

*Mary, pray for us that we may recognize the great blessings God has given us and generously give him our lives as you did.*

**Wed, Dec. 13, St. Lucy:**

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart... for my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Mt 11:29-30)

*Lord, your way is the lightest and the most joyful way. Help me to surrender my will to yours, that I may find rest and perfect happiness in you.*

**Thurs, Dec. 14, St. John of the Cross:**

"For I am the Lord, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" (Is 41:13)

*Jesus, with you and in you there is no fear. Take my hand and lead me on your path—I follow you in trust.*

**Fri, Dec. 15:**

"Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I the Lord, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go." (Is 48:17)

*My Redeemer, show me the way. I give all to you. Give me the grace to keep my eyes fixed on you always.*

**Sat, Dec. 16:**

"Take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted, the son of man whom you yourself made strong... Let us see your face and we shall be saved." (Ps 80: 15b-16, 20)

*Jesus, give us new life, protect and defend me on your path, that I may remain faithful to you always. Protect and sanctify our priests and consecrated persons, and keep married couples faithful to you.*