



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

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30 In what ways am I spiritually asleep? What can I do to walk toward the Light?	1 Am I worthy to have the Lord be my shelter and protection and enter under my roof?	2 What am I concretely doing to bring about “the Peaceable Kingdom of God” in this time?	3 In what ways does God show me His bountiful and extravagant love?	4 Reflect upon the times that God has been your Rock in the past/now?	5 What areas of my life need healing? With a humble heart, ask God to heal you.	6 We are called to plant the seeds of faith in others. What are my “farming skills” for evangelization?
7 Prophets come to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Into which category do I fit?	8 Mary was conceived without original sin. What do I do to combat the forces of evil in my life?	9 When have I been the one sheep that has gone astray from the Good Shepherd? Ask and allow God to bring you back to the fold today.	10 Rest today in the love that Jesus has for you, and you will find hope. You will run and not grow weary.	11 In the midst of my Christmas preparations, how will I hear and see the mercy that Jesus will show me today?	12 Pray a Hail Mary slowly and prayerfully today. Meditate upon Mary as an unmarried, pregnant, afraid, yet faith-filled teenager.	13 Who is a light in my life? For whom have I been a light?
14 Feel the joy of anticipating the coming of the “Light of the World” at Christmas. Find something to rejoice in today.	15 Today’s Psalm Response says, “Teach me Your ways, O Lord.” Do a personal examen of your dedication as a student of the Great Teacher.	16 What areas of my life still need repentance and God’s mercy so I may meet the Christ Child with a clean heart and be radiant with joy?	17 Today the Church reviews the lineage of the predecessors in the family of Jesus. Who in my family has brought me closer to Jesus? Tell them today.	18 Emmanuel: “God is with us!” How do I listen to God’s messengers He sends to me?	19 Believe that the Lord can do something seemingly impossible in your life today!	20 Allow the Holy Spirit to come upon you, and the power of the Most High overshadow you today.
21 Spend time with the Nativity story. Then assess your week ahead with that story as your guide and priority. Remember “Emmanuel” means “God is with us!”	22 The Gospel for today is what the Church calls the “Magnificat” How does my soul proclaim the greatness of the Lord?	23 What do I need to do to prepare for the Refiner’s fire so that I may offer due sacrifice to the Lord?	24 The dawn from on high will break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness.” Get ready! He will “guide our feet into the way of peace.”	25 He was chosen to live among us to teach us Love. Accept God’s extravagant love for you today! Merry Christmas!		

One of the goals for our Holy Apostles Pastorate is to enhance our commitment to the Corporal Works of Mercy. Advent is a good time for us to practice these in our families and individually. The following are possible opportunities:

Week One of Advent:

- Take food to the local food pantry as a whole family.
- Volunteer to serve at The Banquet (soup kitchen) in Sioux Falls or Yankton.
- Call one of the local jails to learn details for writing Christmas cards to the incarcerated.
- Gather mittens/caps to donate to the local school for students in need.

Week Two of Advent:

- Take water/Gatorade to the local fire department for the fire fighter to drink after a fire.
- Write a letter to or visit someone who has recently lost a loved one; holidays can be difficult for them.
- Take flowers to a friend in the hospital or to an elderly neighbor.
- Make and take Christmas cookies to someone you know who is lonely or in need of cheer.

Week Three of Advent:

- Volunteer to donate to, help with, or call BINGO at a local nursing home.
- Donate Bibles to a prison/jail.
- Call "Our Home" in Parkston to ascertain details about donating treats/cards for the young people there.
- Take dinner to someone who lives alone or invite someone/a family to supper at your home.

Week Four of Advent:

- Pay for the coffee/groceries of the person behind you.
- Fill a Christmas stocking full of socks, underwear, and gloves for the VA Hospital to distribute to homeless veterans.
- Buy a gift (coat, shoes, gift card, etc.) for a teenager who may not have material means.
- Take time to praise God for those who helped you when you were in need.