



**THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THE
NINE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

PLEASE NOTE: Christians have called Jesus by many names. For these nine days of prayer we have selected nine titles or names. In acrostic form their initial letters spell CHRISTMAS.

C	- Christ Jesus
H	- Hope of Glory
R	- Redeemer
I	- Intercessor
S	- Son of God
T	-Teacher
m	- Mary's Child
A	- Anointed One
S	- Shepherd

DAILY OPENING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we are looking forward to the solemn feast of your Son's Nativity. Help us to live the remaining Advent days with gladness, inner peace, and ardent longing for the blessed birthday. Amen,

FIRST DAY - 12/16

God' Word: "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 6:23)

PRAYER: How good of you, dear Father, to wrap your Son in the garb of humanity! Christened at the

baptismal font, we call ourselves Christians. May we always honor our name. Amen.

PRACTICE: Be thankful for all who Were baptized since last Advent.

SECOND DAY - 12/17

God's Word: "...the mystery of Christ is you, your hope of glory." (Col 1:27)

PRAYER: Father, you sent your Son as peerless herald of hope. His birth in Bethlehem was a sunburst of hope in a world of gloom. Praise to you, Father, for the wonder of Christ in us, our glorious hope. Amen.

PRACTICE: "Where there is despair, let me sow hope." Go gladden a hurting heart today.

THIRD DAY - 12/18

God's Word: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name: you are mine." (is 43:1)

PRAYER: Dear Father, you sent your Son to reconcile earth with heaven. All the redeemed are precious to Him. May all make His birthday a truly holy day. Amen.

PRACTICE: Wear "the redeemed look." Be generous with your smiles.

FOURTH DAY - 12119

God's Word: "He is always able to save those who approach God through Him, since He forever lives to make intercessions for them." (Heb 7:25)

PRAYER: Father, your Son's prayers were heard because of His reverence. May we look reverently to **YOUT** our Almighty Creator and Lord. In the name of Christ our Intercessor we pray. Amen.

PRACTICE: Intercede for someone, perhaps unknown to you, who urgently needs prayers.

FIFTH DAY - 12120

God's Word: "Yes, God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." (Jn 3:16)

PRAYER: Dear Father, you could have sent Michael, Gabriel, or another angel to save humankind. Your love urged you to give your Son. May we turn our will over to Jesus, letting Him love others through us. Amen.

PRACTICE: Speak kindly to someone you don't really like.

SIXTH DAY - 12121

God's Word: "If you live according to my teaching, you are truly my disciples." (Jn 8:31)

PRAYER: God our Father, the Christ Child cuddled in Mary's or Joseph's arms couldn't speak a word. The Eternal Word was speechless. He glorified you as an adult through teaching and preaching. Make us willing learners in His school of love. Amen,

PRACTICE: Learn Christ. Read in your New Testament.

SEVENTH D" - 12/22

God's Word: "She gave birth to her first born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger." (Lk 2:7)

PRAYER: Eternal Father, you entrusted your Beloved to the Virgin Mary, blessed above all creatures. May she obtain for all Christians an ever-closer bond of love with your Son and her Son, Amen.

PRACTICE: Ask Mary to help you accept God's will as she did.

EIGHT DAY - 12/23

God's Word: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me ... Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." (Lk 4:18, 21)

PRAYER: Father, your Son is Messiah, Christ, the Anointed One. Through His Church's ministry we received the spirit's anointing in Confirmation. We disciples of the Anointed One share His name in a real sense. May we always be loyal disciples. Amen.

PRACTICE: "I will place a lamp for my anointed." (Ps 132:17) **Apply** this to the sanctuary lamp, Give thanks for the sacramental Presence.

NINTH DAY - 12/24

God's Word: "I am the good shepherd ' the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (Jn 10:11)

PRAYER: Gracious Father, shepherds keeping watch visited the newborn Infant, our dear Good Shepherd. In the prime of life, He stretched out His arms on Calvary to embrace and save all His flock. For His constant and tender shepherding we pray, Amen.

PRACTICE: Let the Good Shepherd love and lead you.

DAILY CLOSING PRAYER

Glory to you, God the Father, for your merciful and patient love. Glory to you, God the Son, for taking a God-sized step right down to earth. Glory to you, God the Holy Spirit, for making Mary ever virgin fruitful. Glory and praise to the Most Blessed Trinity. Amen,