IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Advent Prayer Guide



PRAY THIS ADVENT **STARTS NOV 30** **ON HALLOW**

ADVENT PRAY25

It's a Wonderful Life

The truth of Christmas isn't the parties or presents, the carols or cookies. It's that God Himself has come to dwell among us, not just in a manger 2,000 years ago, but right here, right now. Scripture tells us: *"Behold, the virgin shall bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, which means God is with us."* But how often are we too busy or distracted to notice God's presence?

This Advent, join Hallow as we journey through one of the greatest Christmas films of all time: *It's a Wonderful Life*. Over the 25 days leading up to Christmas, we'll walk with the film's main character, George Bailey, as he begins to open his eyes to the great beauty of his life and teaches us to do the same.

Sister Miriam will lead us in prayer throughout the challenge, joined each week by Chris Pratt, Jonathan Roumie, Gary Sinise, and Fr. John Burns as we walk through the film's most beloved scenes. Together, we'll follow George's story and discover what film director Frank Capra found to be at the center of the film: *"There is a radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see, and to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look"* (Friar Fra Giovanni).

Join millions in Hallow's Advent Pray25 Challenge: *It's a Wonderful Life*, starting Monday, November 30!



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"There is a radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see, and to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look."

FRA GIOVANNI

GOD IS WITH US
with Chris Pratt & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 01

DAY 1
"Every moment is holy. Every second sacred."

DAY 2
"I am with you. You are loved."

DAY 1 · MON, NOV 30

EMMANUEL

As you begin this Advent, what worries are you carrying into the season? Bring them to the Lord, and let Joseph's words settle over them: "Do not be afraid. God is with us."

DAY 2 · TUE, DEC 1

GEORGE BAILEY

Where are you tired, discouraged, or convinced you have to face it all alone? Let the Lord speak into that place: "I am with you. You are loved."

GOD IS WITH US
with Chris Pratt & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 01

DAY 3
"Our little stories are lifted up into God's great story."

DAY 4
"Jesus, I surrender myself... Take care of everything."

DAY 3 · WED, DEC 2

ORDINARY LIVES, EXTRAORDINARY MOMENTS

As you look back over your story, where can you now see God at work in a moment that seemed ordinary at the time?

DAY 4 · THU, DEC 3

RESTLESS HEART

What dreams have you carried for your life? What would it look like to place them in the Lord's hands today?

GOD IS WITH US
with Chris Pratt & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 01

CHRIS PRATT
"We only get so many Christmases. I don't want to miss any of them."

SISTER MIRIAM
"Nothing is insignificant. No moment is unimportant."

DAY 5 · FRI, DEC 4

WATCH & REFLECT

Which scene from the film stayed with you today? What might God be showing you through it?

DAY 6 · SAT, DEC 5

STORY OF WONDER

What stood out to you from today's story? Where have you seen God's wonder in your own life?

GOD IS WITH US
with Chris Pratt & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 01

DAY 7 · MARK 1:3

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

DAY 7 · SUN, DEC 6 · SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY HOMILY

What stood out to you from Fr. Pierre-Toussaint's homily? What is one way you can prepare room for the Lord this week?

GOSPEL · MARK 1:1-8

OUR PLAN
with Jonathan Roumie & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 02

DAY 8
"He looked at the world, and He thought it needed you."

DAY 9
"We aren't just asked to sacrifice... we're asked to surrender."

DAY 8 · MON, DEC 7

DREAMS DEFERRED

Where is God inviting you down a road you didn't choose? What is one small step of surrender you can take toward Him today?

DAY 9 · TUE, DEC 8

LEFT BEHIND

Where do you echo George's words, "I want to do what I want to do"? What would it look like to pray with Mary instead: "Let it be done to me according to your word"?

OUR PLAN
with Jonathan Roumie & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 02

DAY 10
"Nothing you give me is lost."

DAY 11
"There is always the choice between resentment and gratitude."

DAY 10 · WED, DEC 9

RUN ON THE BANK

What are your "five loaves and two fish" right now? What time, attention, or resources is Jesus asking you to place in His hands?

DAY 11 · THU, DEC 10

WHAT COULD'VE BEEN

Where has resentment or envy crept into your heart? Name four or five gifts in your life you can thank God for today.

OUR PLAN
with Jonathan Roumie & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 02

ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN
"He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about."

LUKE 15:31
"Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours."

DAY 12 · FRI, DEC 11

WATCH & REFLECT

Which moment from this week's clips spoke to you about surrender? What might God be inviting you to let go of?

DAY 13 · SAT, DEC 12

STORY OF WONDER

What stood out to you from today's story? Where has God turned a change of plans in your life into a gift?

OUR PLAN
with Jonathan Roumie & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 02

DAY 14 · 1 THESS 5:16-18

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks."

DAY 14 · SUN, DEC 13 · THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY HOMILY

What stood out to you from Fr. Pierre-Toussaint's homily? On this Gaudete Sunday, where is God inviting you to rejoice?

GOSPEL · JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

THE UNRAVELING
with Gary Sinise & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 03

DAY 15
"The Lord himself will fight for you. You have only to be still."

DAY 16
"Take courage, for I have overcome the world."

DAY 15 · MON, DEC 14

POTTER'S FIELD

What lies does the enemy whisper about what you need in order to be happy or enough? Where do you need Jesus to step in and say, "Enough"?

DAY 16 · TUE, DEC 15

THE BATTLE OF BEDFORD FALLS

What feels like an impossible situation in your life right now? What would it look like to keep your eyes on Jesus in the middle of the waves?



DAY 17
"He never leaves us orphaned. He never abandons us."

DAY 18
"I'm at the end of my rope. Show me the way, God."

DAY 17 · WED, DEC 16

THE UNRAVELING

Where have your own wounds or stress spilled over onto the people you love? What grace do you need to ask the Lord for, so you can walk differently? Consider bringing this to Confession.

DAY 18 · THU, DEC 17

CRY OF THE HEART

What parts of your life have you been carrying alone? Picture the Father running toward you, even while you are still a long way off. What do you want to tell Him?

THE UNRAVELING
with Gary Sinise & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 03

GARY SINISE
"The only way to survive is... running to the Lord."

SISTER MIRIAM
"Do not be afraid. I have not forgotten you."

DAY 19 · FRI, DEC 18

WATCH & REFLECT

Which moment from this week's clips stayed with you? Where do you see your own story in George's?

DAY 20 · SAT, DEC 19

STORY OF WONDER

What stood out to you from today's story? Where have you seen God show up for you in a dark season?

THE UNRAVELING
with Gary Sinise & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 03

DAY 21 · LUKE 1:37

"For nothing will be impossible for God."

DAY 21 · SUN, DEC 20 · FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY HOMILY

What stood out to you from Fr. Pierre-Toussaint's homily? Where do you most need to trust that nothing is impossible for God?

GOSPEL · LUKE 1:26-38

OPEN YOUR EYES
with Fr. John Burns & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 04

DAY 22
"Each man's life touches so many other lives."

DAY 23
"Please God, I want to live again."

DAY 22 · MON, DEC 21

NEVER BORN

Whose lives has yours touched? Ask the Lord to show you how the world would be different if you weren't in it.

DAY 23 · TUE, DEC 22

LIVE AGAIN

If you knew this would be your last Christmas, what would you do differently? Who would you spend time with, and where would you linger a little longer?

OPEN YOUR EYES
with Fr. John Burns & Sr. Miriam

WEEK 04

DAY 24
"I came so that you might have life, and have it to the full."

DAY 25
"He is here. God is with us."

DAY 24 · WED, DEC 23

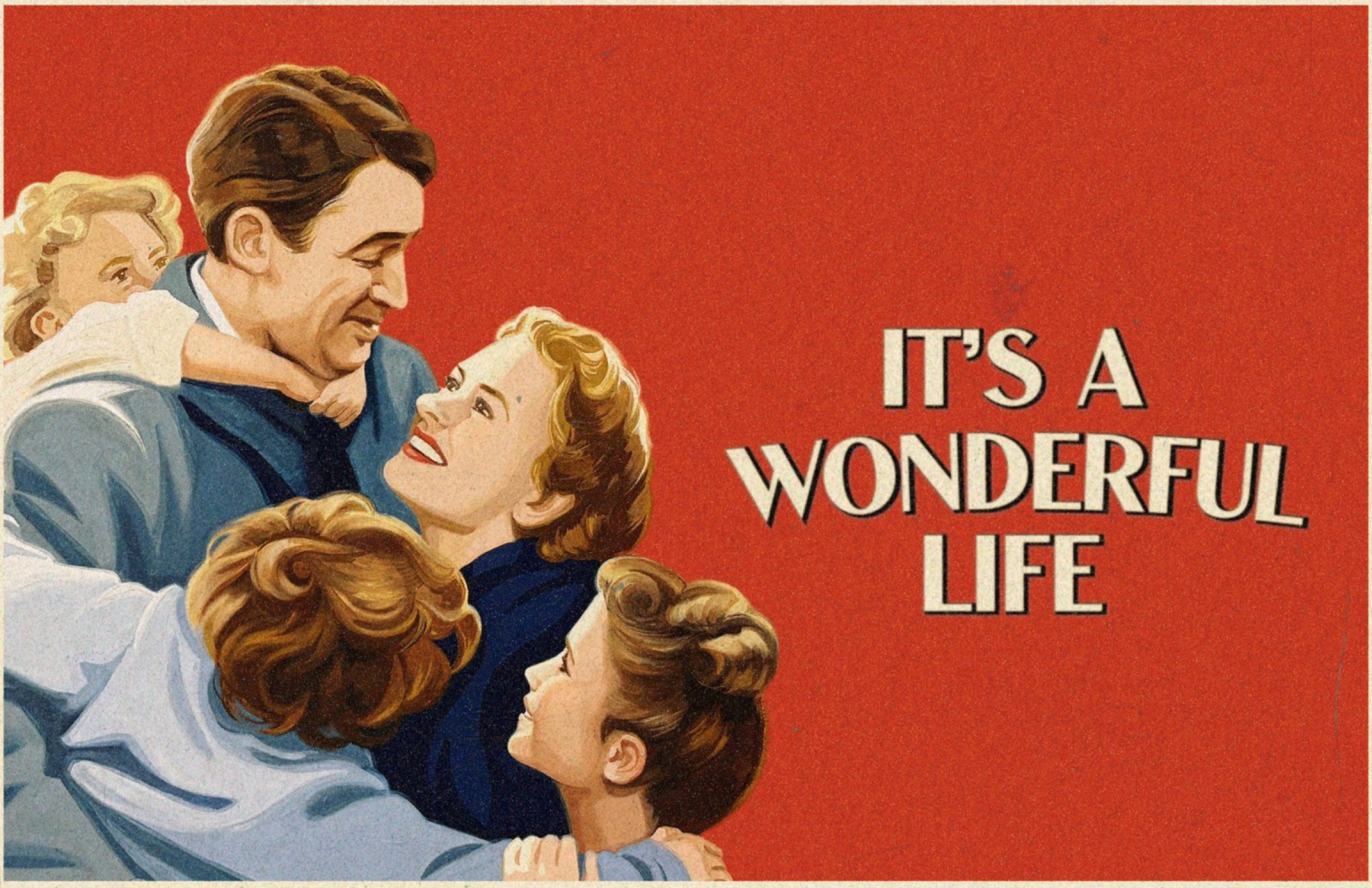
THE RICHEST MAN IN TOWN

Look back over these past weeks. Where did God meet you? Name the gifts, big and small, that you want to thank Him for.

DAY 25 · THU, DEC 24 · CHRISTMAS EVE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

As you kneel at the manger tonight, what does it mean for you that God is with you in the ordinary, in the chaos, and even in the dark?



Merry Christmas

"There is a radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see, and to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look."

FRA GIOVANNI

KEEP PRAYING ON HALLOW

This practice of noticing the Lord's presence is only just beginning. Keep going with brief daily meditations on His presence and on gratitude.

Hallow