ADVENT 2026

And the Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

The Liturgy guarantees for us the possibility of such an encounter. For us a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him. In the Eucharist and in all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us. The salvific power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments. I am Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man possessed by demons at Capernaum, the paralytic in the house of Peter, the sinful woman pardoned, the woman afflicted by hemorrhages, the daughter of Jairus, the blind man of Jericho, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, the thief and Peter both pardoned. The Lord Jesus who dies no more, who lives forever with the signs of his Passion continues to pardon us, to heal us, to save us with the power of the sacraments. It is the concrete way, by means of his incarnation, that he loves us. It is the way in which he satisfies his own thirst for us that he had declared from the cross. (Jn 19:28)

Our first encounter with his paschal deed is the event that marks the life of all believers: our Baptism. This is not a mental adhesion to his thought or the agreeing to a code of conduct imposed by Him. Rather, it is a being plunged into his passion, death, resurrection, and ascension, a being plunged into his paschal deed. It is not magic. Magic is the opposite of the logic of the sacraments because magic pretends to have a power over God, and for this reason it comes from the Tempter. In perfect continuity with the Incarnation, there is given to us, in virtue of the presence and action of the Spirit, the possibility of dying and rising in Christ.

Pope Francis

(*Desiderio desideravi*, 10-12)



Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who has truly suffered, and was sacrificed on the cross for mankind, whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood, Be for us a foretaste of heaven, during our final trial.

The "Virgin of the Inexhaustible Chalice" icon written by Roberta K. Davis, parishioner of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg.

The *Angelus*

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary . . .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary . . .

V. And the Word was made Flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary . . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus is traditionally prayed by the Church three times a day at 6 a.m., Noon, and 6 p.m. as we pause to remember the Incarnation of God the Son in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Praying with the Word of God: Advent

FIRST WEEK

Sunday	Mk 13:33-37
Monday	Is 2:1-5
Tuesday	Ps 72
Wednesday	Is 25:6-10
Thursday	Mt 7:21-27
Friday	Ps 27
Saturday	Is 30:19-21, 23-26

SECOND WEEK

Sunday	Phil 1:4-11
Monday	Ps 85
Tuesday	Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday	Zec 2:14-17
Thursday	Ps 145
Friday	Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-11

THIRD WEEK

Sunday	Zep 3:14-18
Monday	Gn 49-2, 8-10
Tuesday	Jer 23:5-8
Wednesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25
Thursday	Is 7:10-14
Friday	Sg 2:8-14
Saturday	Lk 1:26-38

FOURTH WEEK

Sunday	Mi 5:1-4
Monday	Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday	Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday	Lk 1:57-66
Thursday	Lk 1:67-79

Daily Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As we make the Sign of the Cross, the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

***R/.* Who made heaven and earth.**

A song may be sung as the candle is lighted

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Opening Prayer

Open our minds and our hearts, O Lord, to hear your word of promise! Send us the Holy Spirit to guide us through these holy days. Quiet our worries and anxieties and help us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ who is Lord for ever and ever. *R/.* Amen.

Scripture Reading
(see Daily Readings above)

A reflection may be shared about the Reading

Concluding Prayer

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
***R/.* Amen.**

As we make the Sign of the Cross, we say:

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us everlasting life.
R/. Amen.

Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me.
Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.
Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me.
Jesus rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me. Jesus loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.

Diocese of Harrisburg
Office for Divine Worship
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