

Veni, veni, Emmanuel captivum solve Israel, qui gemit in exsilio, privatus Dei Filio. Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel! Veni, Veni O Sapientia, quae hic disponis omnia, veni, veni, ut am prudentia docas nos gloriae. Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel! Veni, veni, Emmanuel captivum solve Israel, qui gemit in exsilio, privatus Dei Filio. Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur

Advent 2014

DAILY LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Sign of the Cross

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!

Scripture Reading (see Daily Readings for Advent)

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.

Concluding Blessing

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

DAILY READINGS FOR ADVENT

*"Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet,
a light for my path." - Psalm 119:105*

FIRST WEEK

Sunday I Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Monday Isaiah 2:1-5
Tuesday Psalm 72
Wednesday Isaiah 25:6-10
Thursday Matthew 7:21-27
Friday Psalm 27
Saturday Luke 1:26-38

SECOND WEEK

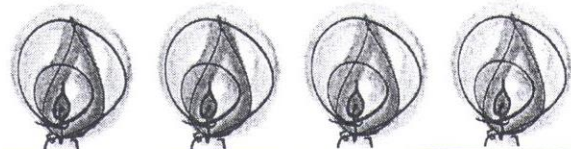
Sunday Philippians 1:4-11
Monday Psalm 85
Tuesday Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday Zechariah 2:14-17
Thursday Psalm 145
Friday Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday Sirach 48:1-11

THIRD WEEK

Sunday Zephaniah 3:14-18
Monday Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Tuesday Jeremiah 23:5-8
Wednesday Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Thursday Isaiah 7:10-14
Friday Song of Songs 2:8-14
Saturday Luke 1:26-38

FOURTH WEEK

Sunday Micah 5:1-4
Monday Luke 1:57-66
Tuesday Psalm 25
Wednesday Luke 1:67-79



"God's intervention that we might persevere until the end, until the definitive encounter with Jesus, is an expression of his fidelity. It is like a dialogue between our weakness and his faithfulness. He is strong in his fidelity. Elsewhere Paul was to say that he, Paul, is strong in his weakness. Why? Because he is in dialogue with the God's faithfulness. And God's faithfulness never disappoints. He is faithful first and foremost to himself. Therefore, he will bring to completion the work that he has begun in each one of us by his call. This gives us great assurance and confidence: a confidence which rests in God and requires our active and courageous cooperation in the face of the challenges of the present moment. You know that we cannot live without facing challenges, without responding to challenges. Whoever does not face challenges, whoever does not take up challenges, is not living. Your willingness and your abilities, combined with the power of the Holy Spirit who abides in each of us from the day of Baptism, allow you to be more than mere spectators, they allow you to be protagonists in contemporary events. Please do not watch life go by from the balcony! Mingle where the challenges are calling you to help carry life and development forward, in the struggle over human dignity, in the fight against poverty, in the battle for values and in the many battles we encounter each day."

- from Pope Francis' Homily for First Vespers of Advent 2013

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die.

Amen.

Act of Hope

O Lord God, I hope by your grace for the pardon of all my sins and after life here to gain eternal happiness because you have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful. In this hope I intend to live and die.

Amen

Act of Charity

O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die.

Amen.

Prayer of Saint Columbanus

I beg you, most loving Savior, to reveal yourself to us, that knowing you we may desire you, that desiring you we may love you, that loving you we may every hold you in our thoughts.

An Advent Examination of Conscience Based on the Advent "O" Antiphons

- Jesus is the Wisdom of God Most High: *Have I permitted the teachings of Christ to guide my daily life? Have I studied the Word of God and listened attentively to the Scripture Readings? Have I permitted my mind, my attitude, my thinking to be renewed by Christ?*
- Jesus is the Lord: *Have I followed the Ten Commandments faithfully? Do I love God above all else? Have I put false gods before my true Lord and God?*
- Jesus is the Root of Jesse's Stem: *Is my life rooted in Christ? Do my daily actions reflect my relationship with Christ? Do I put my hope and trust in God's promises and His will for my life? Do I rely too heavily on my own strength?*
- Jesus is the Key of David: *Do I make regular use of the Sacrament of Penance? Am I enslaved to sins or habits from which I need freed? Do I live as a worthy member of the Kingdom of God? Do I believe firmly that Jesus is the key that opens for me the gates of heaven?*
- Jesus is the Radiant Dawn and Sun of Justice: *Do I live as a child of the light? Do my outward actions and words reflect my true self? Am I a person of peace and goodwill? Do others see Christ reflected in my words and actions?*
- Jesus is the King of all nations and Keystone of the Church: *Do I proudly live out my faith in all that I say and do? Do I invite others to know Christ and to come to the Church? Am I faithful to my commitments to the Church and my parish family? Do I strive to know and understand the teachings of Christ as handed on to me by the Church?*
- Jesus is Emmanuel: *Am I aware and grateful for God's presence and action in my life? Do I raise up my thoughts to the Lord throughout my daily work? Do I reverence Christ truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament? Do I find Christ present in the needs of the poor and the marginalized?*