Christmes

YEAR B 2020-2021





ADVENT **MESSAGE BY BISHOP** SEBASTIAN

SESSION DYNAMICS

24 THIRD **SUNDAY OF** ADVENT

FEAST OF THE **HOLY FAMILY**

PURPOSE & **HOW TO USE** THIS ADVENT **CHRISTMAS KIT**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

HASHTAG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

> 12 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

46 CHRISTMAS NATIVITY OF **OUR LORD**

SOLEMNITY. **EPIPHANY OF** THE LORD

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BY BISHOP SEBASTIAN/FRANCIS/

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

~John 16:33~



My Dear People of God in the states of Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Perak, Penang AND BEYOND,

This Advent Christmas Kit is our gift for each one of you to journey through Advent and Christmas during this beautiful Season of Grace.

I wish to invite you to EMBRACE fully and LIVE with intensity these events of the Good News, as you make a conscious effort to BE OF GOOD CHEER!!!

Hope Peace Joy Love
Glory Togetherness
Fiat Shine



With heartfelt gratitude, we thank the many individuals, organizations, online and offline sources, and most importantly the Holy Spirit for guiding us from the beginning, the progress and the completion of this Advent - Christmas Kit

"May the 60d of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

PURPOSE

This Advent-Christmas Kit 2020 is specifically designed to assist families, households and individuals in your journey through Advent and Christmas, during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, when mass gatherings are restricted.

HOW TO USE

To be prayed at a specific time scheduled by the family, household and individual.

To prepare the recommended materials suggested, prior to gathering together, so as to actively participate during this Season of Grace.

Aside from the weekly sessions, the Advent-Christmas Calendar is prepared as a guide for your daily spiritual walk throughout the Season of Advent and Christmas.

Theme

Each week focuses on a theme to be reflected upon.

Faith Facts

A spiritual nugget to understand the Season a little more.

Opening & Closing Hymn

An Advent/Christmas song to sing along. A link is also provided to aid in the singing.

Opening & Closing Prayer

To be prayed together at the start and end of the session, marked with the Sign of the Cross.

Gospel & Reflection

It is recommended to flip & read directly from the Bible.

A supplement to understand and live better the theme and Gospel reading for the Sunday and week ahead.

Activity

To participate creatively in an Advent-Christmas practice.

Preparation for next week

Materials to be prepared prior to the following Sunday session for a better participation.

#GLOW4CHRIST

God's Love from Oneself to the World, for Christ

You have been blessed to be a blessing to others! With thanksgiving and grateful hearts, let us shine the light of Christ and bear witness for Him, as we share God's Love that we have personally experienced to the world.

You are encouraged to share testimonies, photos, and videos of the activities done together during the use of this Advent-Christmas Kit. Let us share this blessing with the world by posting our wonderful experiences on social media using

#GLOW4CHRIST











BE CHRTST TO OTHERS

November 2020

29 Blessing of Christmas

Wreath

30 Give away ONE thing that is precious to you, to 🤟 someone 🐃

December 2020

Pray over the news, especially the end of Covid-19

2 Surprise an old friend with a call

3 See the face of Jesus in every person you encounter today

4 Pray for a person you know who is ill at the moment 5 Prepare a Christmas gift & pray for the people you prepare them for

6 Affirm others and say kind words

7

Set up a daily prayer time and commit to keep to it

8 In your own way, express your love for Mother Mary today, remembering her *Immaculate* Conception

9 Share your experience of Christ's love on social media with

#GLOW4CHRIST

December 2020

The world needs

11 Send a
Christmas card
especially to a
person who is
alone

Reconcile with someone that you have hurt you

Blessing of Christmas Tree 14
Thank you note
to a front liner

for ALL clergy and religious in their mission

16 For every
ornament you decorate
on the tree, offer it up
for someone to
experience Christ's love
this Christmas

17

Help the elderly
or someone in
need with grocery

Write a note instead of a text to a friend

18

19

Sit in silence for just 2 minutes & tell God you belong to Him 20 Blessing of Christmas Crib a personal appreciation message to 5 persons

24 Place an encouragement note in the postbox or on the car of

at least I person

22

Decide what gift you would like to give Jesus this Christmas Do something for others that reflects Christ's love

December 2020

25 * * * * *

Have a family meal together Werry Christmas

26Bless a homeless person with a meal

27 Pray together in front of the Christmas Crib

28 Pray for a family who has just lost a loved one this year

THANK 29 Do a gratitude list and thank God for each one

of them

30 For every little thing you do today say, "For You, Jesus"

31 one learning experience of

Identify 💞 💆 2020 & share it

January 2021

1 Pray the rosary together, with each person offering an intention

2 Make ONE new year resolution and commit to it

Recognize ONE good quality you are blessed with and offer it in service for others

Spring Cleaning

SPIRITUAL CHECKUP

- Do we SEEK counsel and help when faced with difficult or confusing situations and choices?
- Do we honestly THINK how our actions and behaviour affect us, others and our relationship with God?
- Do you reach out and support OTHERS, particularly those in great need? Are you there for your family and friends?
- Do you spend time to PRAY for God's guidance in your life? Do you thank God for the blessings and the struggles that make you stronger?

A SIMPLE ADVENT WREATH ALREADY SET UP WITH THE CANDLES

The wreath represents everlasting life brought through Jesus, and the circular shape represents God with no beginning and no end



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOPE



Season of Advent The meaning



Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the birth of Christ. The word "Advent" derives from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming," and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.



O Come Divine Messiah

O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.

Refrain:

Sweet Savior haste; Come, come to earth, Dispel the night and show Thy face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iONF3SyomJc





In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Father, we thank You for this time and opportunity together to be in Your presence. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us strength to grow in love, so that we may rejoice in His presence and welcome the light of His truth, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.





Mark 13:33-37

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOD'S IMMENSE LOVE FOR US! READY - SET - GLOW!



Have you ever experienced a sudden unforeseen event in your life or in the lives of those around you?

The direct and indirect consequences of COVID-19 pandemic could be one of the classic examples.

What have we come to understand? NOTHING BUT TOTAL, COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON GOD ALONE! This is because we begin to realize and truly experience God's presence and closeness in these moments. WE BEGIN TO ENTRUST AND PLACE ALL OUR HOPE IN THE LORD.

Advent is precisely an invitation to deepen this intimacy between us and God, so that we may experience God's immense love for us. Are we prepared to experience this close relationship, so that in any situation or circumstances we are ready to meet the Lord?

Let us stay alert and awake, vigilantly preparing ourselves holistically, moment by moment, so that we may glow in His light each day with hopeful hearts!



Blessing of an Advent Wreath

Lights to be dimmed



The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. The blessing may be celebrated during Mass, a celebration of the Word of God, or evening prayer. The candles represents the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Leader: Our help is in the Name of the Lord

All: Who made heaven and earth

Leader:

Let us join our hands as we pray this 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 Saviour 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.

All: Amen.



As the First Advent Candle – HOPE is lighted, we say prayerfully and softly, inviting Jesus into our hearts:

MARANATHA, COME LORD JESUS (3x)

(This can also be repeated when lighting the Advent candles for all the other weeks)

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil,

and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we invite You into our thoughts, our emotions, our actions, our decisions and into every other corner of our lives. Help us make a conscious effort to see You in every present moment, each day through Your grace and love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Advent is nothing other than annual meditation on the work of salvation and sanctification, the work of grace and love which the Lord began and continually begins in every man and in every generation down to the last coming of Jesus Christ"

St. John Paul II



There was Jesus

Every time I tried to make it on my own
Every time I tried to stand and start to fall
And all those lonely roads that I have travelled on
There was Jesus

When the life I built came crashing to the ground When the friends I had were nowhere to be found I couldn't see it then but I can see it now There was Jesus

In the waiting, in the searching
In the healing and the hurting
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces
Every minute, every moment
Where I've been and where I'm going
Even when I didn't know it or couldn't see it
There was Jesus

For this man who needs amazing kind of grace For forgiveness at a price I couldn't pay I'm not perfect so I thank God every day There was Jesus There was Jesus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXctDC3R-3g



In the waiting, in the searching
In the healing and the hurting
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces
Every minute, every moment
Where I've been and where I'm going
Even when I didn't know it or couldn't see it
There was Jesus

On the mountains
In the valleys
There was Jesus
In the shadows
Of the alleys
There was Jesus
In the fire, in the flood
There was Jesus
Always is and always was, oh

No, I never walk alone Never walk alone You're always there

In the waiting, in the searching
In the healing, in the hurting
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces
Every minute, every moment
Where I've been or where I'm going
Even when I didn't know it
Or couldn't see it
There was Jesus

Plain paper which will be kept by you alone after the activity





Hard covered papers (preferably coloured) to be written on - could also be cut into different shapes (eg. Christmas Tree, Angel, Star, etc)

Pen for each individual





A phone fully charged!

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PEACE



Season of Advent Beginning of the liturgical year



Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Advent was chosen to begin the year as representative of the time in history that Christ was not known to us.

With His birth the beginning of our faith was founded. The liturgical year ends with the feast of Christ the King, His reign over the universe.



Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

https://youtu.be/xal35DgmSUs





In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of power and mercy, open our hearts to welcome You. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





Mark 1:1-8

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



BE FILLED TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!



Can you identify what is currently blocking you from receiving the Peace of Christ? Pride? Disobedience? Worry? Addiction? Busyness? Anger? Unforgiveness? Ungratefulness? Anxiety? Fear of the unknown?

Today, God continues to send many persons and situations in our lives to direct us to Him. Are we able to recognize them?

Are we one of them? If our answer is yes, are we simple and humble like St. John the Baptist?

Once again, Christ invites us to empty ourselves from every hindrance so that He may fill us with His Spirit. Receive the Peace of Christ and share that blessing with others generously!

RECHARGE - RENEW - RECONNECT



PART 1: EMPTYING MYSELF TO BE FILLED

A) For ONE MINUTE, in the stillness of your heart, personally reflect one by one, and list down on the plain piece of paper, the many obstacles that you are currently experiencing within you from receiving the Peace of Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be aware of these hindrance and bring them to surface. This personal exercise is to be done quietly and not meant for sharing. It is only between you and God.

B) Recognizing these blocks, let us with a repentant heart, say the Act of Contrition together, meaningfully and wholeheartedly, with a firm decision to make amendments for them.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

RECHARGE - RENEW - RECONNECT

PART 2: PERSONS ARE GIFTS SENT BY GOD TO US

It is also important to recognize the goodness in oneself and the goodness in others. Affirm one another.



- 1. Using the coloured piece of paper, write your name on top of it. When all have written, pass the paper to the person on your right.
- 2. Referring to the name on the paper, each one pauses for a moment to write JUST ONE GOOD QUALITY about that person.
- 3. Repeat Point 2, as you continue to pass the paper to the person on your right, until everyone has had the chance to write on every name. This exercise completes once you have received the paper with your own name on it. You may share what is written on your paper with one another.

Be affirmed and encouraged, with the gifts you have and are!
It is God speaking to you through the people around you!

Continue to shine the light of Christ!

RECHARGE - RENEW - RECONNECT

PART 3: BE INTENTIONAL! SHARE THE BLESSING!



Send a text message or write a note to at least 3 other persons with the following message:

YOU ARE A BLESSING! GOD LOVES YOU IMMENSELY!

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, we thank You for the message of peace. Give peace among nations, peace in our land, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, as we remember the coming of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tell souls not to place within their own hearts obstacles to My Mercy, which so greatly wants to act within them. My Mercy works in all those hearts which open their doors to it.

St. Faustina's Diary



Blessings

We pray for blessings, We pray for peace Comfort for family, protection while we sleep We pray for healing, for prosperity We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering All the while, You hear each spoken need Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops What if Your healing comes through tears What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough
All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cd6J6Wgnv4M



Blessings

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not our home

What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't
satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise

Hashtag & Share your photos #GLOW4CHRIST



A plain Christmas Tree or any other plant representing a Christmas Tree, already set up with lights waiting to be illuminated.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



JCY



Season of Advent The two parts



Advent has two parts.

The first part - The First Sunday of Advent until December 16 is preparation for the second coming of Christ.

The second part - from December 17 to 24 directly prepares us for the commemoration of the first coming of Christ, Christmas.



Come Thou Found of Every Blessing

Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing Tune my heart to sing Thy grace Streams of mercy, never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me that melodious sonnet "Glory to the Lord on high!"
Thy bright star, I'm fixed upon it Knowing hope for all is nigh

Come Thou Long-awaited Savior Come with mortal men to dwell Come in flesh, O Love Incarnate God with us, Emmanuel

Son of God, O Son of David Son of Mary, Son of Man Hope of everything created From Thy throne to Bethlehem

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H aACO9LjoM





In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord God, may we, Your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the Joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. Give us the courage to choose JOY that can only be found in You. We make this pray in Your Most Holy and Precious Name. Amen.





John 1:6-8, 19-28

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Who Do YOU Say I am? In a personal relationship?



Let us learn to be humble like St. John the Baptist. Waiting in anticipation while doing what he was sent to do. He took no credit to himself but recognized his true self completely, while directing and pointing others to Jesus. This is precisely our call too; to lead others to Christ, giving Him all the praise, honour and glory.

When we are tempted to focus on ourselves, let us remember St. John the Baptist and fix our gaze on Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life; and we are His witnesses.

This great and mighty King described in the Gospel is knocking on the doors of our hearts at this very moment.

Today, Jesus is asking us; in a personal relationship.

(Your Name) Who do YOU say I am? What will be your answer?

Blessing of Christmas Tree

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays which depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle which symbolized Christ, the Light of the world.

According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany.

The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing. All make the sian of the cross as these words are said:

Leader: Blessed be the Name of the Lord

All: Now and forever

Leader: Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as

we illuminate this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We

ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

As you continue to decorate the Christmas tree beginning today throughout Advent, offer up every ornament for a particular person or intention. These ornaments could also be handmade using recycled items (Eg. CD, Cardboard, stuff toys, can tins, etc).

Among the many interesting links:

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/632755816374152399/



Dear Lord, we pray for attentiveness to what truly matters. Create opportunities for us to see You in every person we encounter this Christmas. We pray for a discerning heart to always follow Your Will so that we may truly experience the fullness of JOY which comes from You alone. We thank you for the greatest Gift of Yourself to us, so that we may have eternal life. We humbly make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray"

St. Louis de Monfort



When A Child is Born

A ray of hope
Flickers in the sky
A tiny star lights up
Way up high
All across the land
Dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

A silent wish
Sails the seven seas
The winds of change
Whisper in the trees
And the walls of doubt
Tumble tossed and torn
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

A rosy hue
Settles all around
You start to feel
You're on solid ground
For a spell or two
No one seems forlorn
This comes to pass, when a child is born.



When A Child is Born

It's all a dream
An illusion now
It must come true
Sometime soon somehow
All across the land
Dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

A ray of hope
Flickers in the sky
A tiny star lights up
Way up high
All across the land
Dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass, when a child is born.

Hashtag & Share your photos #GLOW4CHRIST

A Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene. Alternatively, just a Baby Jesus in the manger would suffice.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



JOYE



Season of Advent The symbol of wreath



The wreath with the candles are very symbolic to the Christmas season.

The wreath is a circular, never-ending symbol of eternal love and rebirth. It has no beginning and no end, symbolizing the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high And order all things, far and nigh To us the path of knowledge show And teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.





In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Father, all-powerful God, Your Eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of Your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Luke 1:26-38

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOD = LOVE! OUR RESPONSE =?



For God
so loved
the world,
that He gave
His only begotten son,
that whosoever believeth on him
should not perish,
but have
eternal

John 3:16

This is God's Love Story! A love-pact with His people. His unconditional love is truly to be cherish! Mother Mary, is that Ark of God's covenant. Her obedience and faithfulness was a response to the Love of God, who first loved her.

What is your response to God's Love? Is there room in your heart for Jesus?

Today, let us be grateful for this GIFT OF LOVE that the Father Himself has freely shared with us.

With a humble and contrite heart, let us respond to this love with GRATITUDE in every way possible.



Blessing of Christmas Crib

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to Saint Francis of Assisi who made the Christmas crib or manger for Christmas eve of 1223.

When a manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as these words are said:

Leader: Our help is in the Name of the Lord

All: Who made heaven and earth

Leader: Let us join our hands as we pray this prayer

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation You have manifested Your love: when our need for a Saviour was great, You sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this Nativity Scene; may it remind us of the humble Birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is God-With-Us and Saviour of all, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.



God our Father, we thank You for Your unconditional love for all of us. You have taught us the true meaning of love and our greatest joy in Christ. Thank You for the gift of Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

With grateful hearts, we praise and glorify You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern"

St. Mother Teresa



Make Room

Family hiding from the storm
Found no place at the keeper's door
It was for this a Child was born
To save a world so cold and hollow

The sleeping town did not know That lying in a manger low A Savior King who had no home Has come to heal our sorrows

Is there room in your heart Is there room in your heart Is there room in your heart For God to write His story

Shepherds counting sheep in the night Do not fear the glory light You are precious in His sight God has come to raise the lowly

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUFSxt7qkNw



Make Room

Is there room in your heart Is there room in your heart Is there room in your heart For God to write His story

You can come as you are
But it may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart

Mother holds the Promise tight
Every wrong will be made right
The road is straight and the burden's light
For in His hands He holds tomorrow

Hashtag & Share your photos #GLOW4CHRIST

ONE Christmas gift prepared by each one with love





A Christmas Meal to be shared with all

A birthday cake for Jesus with a candle



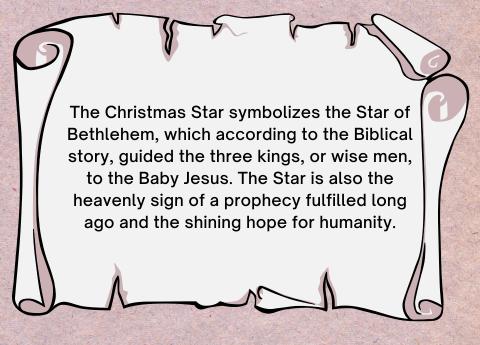
CHRISTMAS DAY



GLORY



Season of Christmas The Star of Christmas





Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing, Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85EA2fhz1DE





In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God and Father of Light, a child is born for us and a Son is given to us.

Your Eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now Your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of Her God.

Open our hearts to receive His life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn that our lives may be filled with His glory and His peace, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.





Luke 2:6-14

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF CHRISTMAS



This Christmas, let us give GLORY TO GOD for the gift of Himself to us, as we unwrap these gifts present in Him. Let us REJOICE in the GIFT OF CHRISTMAS!

THE GIFT OF Hope amidst the uncertainties

Do you feel like you are losing HOPE? Jesus is saying to you today, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you Hope and a Future" - Jeremiah 29:11

THE GIFT OF LOVE that changes our heart

Are you struggling to experience LOVE? Jesus is saying to you today, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love" - John 15:9



THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

THE GIFT OF JOY that brings laughter & life Is JOY missing in your life? Jesus is saying to you today, "I have spoken these things to you; that My Joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full" – John 15:11

THE GIFT OF PEACE even in the midst of pain and struggles. Are you anxious about a particular situation, unable to find PEACE? Jesus is saying to you today, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" – John 14:27

Let the light of Christ shine brightly as you surrender every dark corner that you are experiencing.

He repeats again today, "I came for you", "I am always with you", "I love you".

Let us embrace this GIFT OF CHRISTMAS and give Him all the GLORY!



Father, today we come to worship with grateful hearts, full of thanksgiving. We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends and pray for blessings for all people. Fill our hearts with Your love and peace. Lord, You have brought the gift of Eternal Life, grant that Your Light enkindled in our hearts. We make this prayer in Your Most Precious Name, Amen.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you"

St. Mother Teresa



Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders, of His love

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rjinc8ctg5c

Hashtag & Share your photos #GLOW4CHRIST



A Christmas Meal together followed by exchange of gifts

Sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jesus

(All to make a personal commitment to Jesus in your heart before blowing the candle)



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY





Season of Christmas The Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family.

The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.



Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King! Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th' angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem. Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord; Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the favoured one. Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail, th' incarnate Deity: Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King!

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings; Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the son of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n10qcyJfFNM



Sign of the Cross In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, we thank You for the gift of families. Bless each member of our family. Help us to love, listen, support and accept one another. Encourage us to challenge one another to be compassionate, merciful and forgiving as we struggle with the difficulties of our lives.

Guide us to seek goodness and holiness in our everyday choices, actions and attitudes. Encourage us when our faith is weak and when we fail to lead one another to Christ. Make our home a real dwelling place of peace, joy and love, where You are ever present among us.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, model for all Christian families, we entrust our family and all families to Your care and protection, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.





Luke 2:22,39-40

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

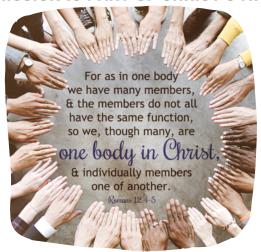
When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



YOUR MISSION IS PART OF CHRIST'S MISSION



Each individual has a mission. Likewise, each family has a mission.

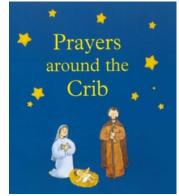
The holiness of the family of Nazareth was found in their simple and ordinary life together.

What is your mission as a Catholic family? Pray to the Holy Family to guide and help you understand your mission as a family.

Let us actively nurture saints in our families and in our midst.

Praying Together at the Christmas Crib





St. Francis of Assisi first popularized the Christmas manger. He wanted to see how Christ was born with his own eyes, and so he had a stable and some images made before Christmas and then invited his neighbour and friends to come and join him at his "Bethlehem."

As we look on our manger, may the Christmas story unfold before our eyes, too. Let us pray the Holy Family prayer together





A Holy Family Prayer

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

The youngest to lead ONE Our Father, 3 Hail Mary, and ONE Glory Be

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"It is in the Holy Family, the original "Church in miniature" that every Christian family must be reflected"

St. John Paul II



Away in a Manger

Away in a manger No crib for a bed The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head

The stars in the sky Look down where He lay The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing The poor Baby wakes But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2ULTkNmIEY



I love Thee, Lord Jesus Look down from the sky And stay by my side 'Til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever And love me, I pray

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
To live with Thee there



Personal Journal / hard covered paper

Pen for each individual

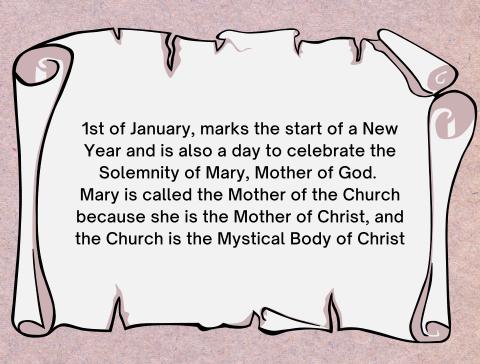


MARY, MOTHER OF GOD





Season of Christmas Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God





O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him O come, let us adore Him O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God Glory in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning Jesus, to Thee be glory given Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1MnmkVfpqE





Sign of the Cross Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. In the name of the Father and of the

God our Father, we celebrate at this season the beginning of our salvation. The young virgin conceived and bore Your Son who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace. On this Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, we ask that our salvation will be brought to its fulfillment.

May her prayer, the gift of a mother's love, be Your people's joy through all ages. May her response, born of a humble heart, draw Your Spirit to rest on Your people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Luke 2:16-21

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

Mary's Fiat. A Firm YES!

Mary was just a youth when she responded "YES" to God's Holy Will. Mary's Fiat, a Latin word which means, "LET IT BE DONE" was a total and complete YES that changed the world forever.

Pope Francis in Christus Vivit emphasizes the strength of this young Mary's YES.

"This was no merely passive or resigned acceptance, or a faint 'yes', as if to say, 'Well, let's give it a try and see what happens'. Mary did not know the words, 'Let's see what happens'. She was determined; she knew what was at stake and she said 'yes' without thinking twice. Hers was the 'yes' of someone prepared to be committed, someone willing to take a risk, ready to stake everything she had, with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise." *Christus Vivit, 44*

Today, the same scene at Annunciation takes place at every moment of our lives. God is inviting us to allow His Will to be done in our lives. He is asking for Christ to be born anew in us at every instance.

That same Holy Spirit which was with that young Mary during the Annunciation, is now also with us. With COURAGE and HUMILITY, let us respond generously,

"YES LORD. LET YOUR WILL BE DONE IN ME".

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION TOGETHER WITH MARY



On this New Year, let us thank God for the blessings received in 2020 and for the gift of another new beginning.

With the help of Mary's intercession, let us state on the paper prepared or on our journal:

I COMMIT TO BEAR WITNESS TO CHRIST THROUGHOUT

THIS YEAR BY (state at least ONE commitment)

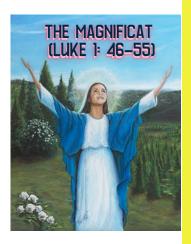


CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, today as we celebrate the divine motherhood of our Mother Mary, the Mother of all God's children, we entrust to Your loving guidance and protection, all families who are in need of Your help. Keep all mothers and fathers faithful to each other and fully dedicated to their children. Fill all families with Your love, joy, peace and happiness.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray the Magnificat together with Mary



THE MAGNIFICAT

(Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth.)

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted. He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy, the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Luke 1:46-55

"What a joy to remember that she is our mother! Since she loves us and knows our weakness, what have we to fear?"

- St. Therese of Lisieux



BY FAITH WE SEE THE HANDS OF GOD

Lord, we your children
and we're gathered in your Name
To worship you, to give your thanks,
to praise you for your glory
Lord we want to know you more,
to do Your Will is our desire
Walk with us, Talk to us, help us understand

"Do not be afraid Mary", Archangel Gabriel said "For you have found favour with the Lord" Yes! We know with God all things are possible By faith we see the hands of God

Give me strength when I am afraid Give me courage to walk in your ways Give me hope to always believe in you, in you

https://youtu.be/Q73HAk2P9p8



BY FAITH WE SEE THE HANDS OF GOD

Lord help me do your will, not my own When trials come and I feel alone Though I may not understand, the circumstances at hand Help me walk by faith, not by sight Placing my trust in you

Take My hand, we will get through this together You and I will never be apart Take courage! It is I do not be afraid I am with you till the ends of the earth

Hashtag & Share your photos #GLOW4CHRIST



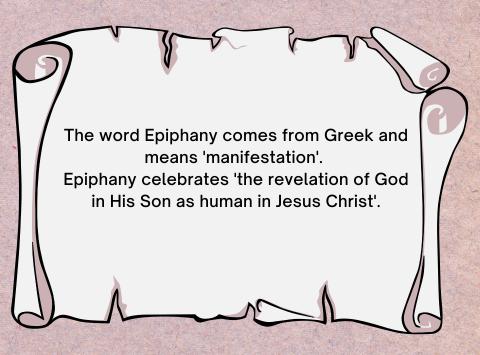
Candle to be lighted for every individual

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD





Season of ChristmasThe Epiphany of The Lord





We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star

Oh, star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light We three kings, we three kings

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I Incense owns a Deity nigh Prayer and praising, voices raising, Worshipping God on high

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaheOgdGKJO





In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to Your glory in heaven by the light of faith. Guide and direct our steps so that we too may be the light of Christ that shines for others. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked, 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising:



it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.





CHRIST + ME = CHRIST IN ME = SHINE

Christ came for all and He wants to illuminate our lives with His light.



Let us always remain connected to the Source of Light so that we may SHINE His Light BRIGHTLY wherever we go, especially where darkness is present.

Let us LIGHT the World with His Light, so that connected together to the same Source, we may SHINE BRIGHT wherever we may be!

Today, we join all the people of the world in celebrating the revelation of Christ to the World.

Epiphany is still being experienced by all of us, every single day of our lives.





From the moment we wake up, to the many events that takes place in our lives, until the time we retire to bed, we experience this revelation of Christ, because He is still very much present in and among us.

Are we able to identify Him? Can we recognize Him in the daily event of our lives?

Let us begin our day each morning with, "Lord, help me to see you today as you reveal yourself to me!" Let us not pass through any day, missing out on experiencing His presence.

Having experienced Him in a personal way, we are now called to SHARE CHRIST with others.

Let us SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST everywhere we go!

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.

Luke 4:18

SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AND SHINE, FOR HIM!



As you hold this lighted candle in your hands, say this prayerfully and meaningfully

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT
SHINE IN OUR HEARTS
SHINE THROUGH THE DARKNESS
SHINE IN ME
SHINE THROUGH ME

3X

Bless one another with the sign of the cross on each person's forehead with this blessing:

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord let His face shine on you and be gracious to you
May the Lord uncover His face to you and bring you peace.

Numbers 6: 24-26

86



Lord Jesus, may Your light shine our way as once it guided the Magi, that we too may be led into Your presence and worship You. Fix our eyes and hearts in Your Light that we might be bearers of that Light to all whom we encounter. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus...; for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped, not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit" St. John Chrysostom



Go Tell it On the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo! above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed the Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udVFjTYp9tM

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