

**St. Peter RC Parish
Prayer Group
December 2023**

Month of the Immaculate Conception

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

Amen

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Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

All:

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous branch to spring forth for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Jeremiah 33:14-15

Leader:

The month of December is a time of great expectation and hope as we eagerly await the arrival of the glorious gift of our Savior. We take the time to reflect on the many good things with which our Loving God has gifted us. With hearts full of gratitude we offer our thanks and praise.

R (All): God of Grace, Hear our Prayer

Leader:

....We thank You for the gift of family, both in our homes, and in our communities. **R**

....We thank You for the gift of this glorious world, created in beauty and wonder by You. **R**

....We thank You for the gift of knowledge, and how it allows our medical professionals to create treatments and medications to combat sickness and disease. **R**

....We thank You for the great gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May we ever honor Him, and keep Your word in our hearts. **R**

....We thank You for all the caregivers of the world. The people who care for all those in need; the sick, poor, lonely, distressed and unloved. **R**

....We thank You for the gift of the Church, a community of your children, gathered together to worship, serve, pray and love as taught by Your Son, Jesus Christ. **R**

....We thank You for Your grace, mercy and abundant Blessings. **R**

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be



The Month of December Honors Mary's Immaculate Conception



All:

Prayer for Immaculate Conception

Oh most pure Virgin Mary conceived without sin, from the very first instant, you were entirely immaculate. Oh glorious Mary full of grace, you are the Mother of our God - the Queen of Angels and of men. We humbly venerate you as the chosen mother of our Savior, Jesus

Christ. The Prince of Peace and the Lord of Lords chose you for the singular grace and honor of being His beloved Mother. By the power of His Cross, He preserved you from all sin.

Therefore, by His power and love, we have hope and confidence in your prayers for our holiness and salvation.

We ask that your prayers will bring us to imitate your holiness and submission to Jesus and the Divine Will.

Amen

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be



An Advent Prayer

All:

Holy Father, allow the grace of this sacred season to take hold of us.
This Advent, help us to slow down, listen to Your voice,
and focus on what is truly important.

Free us from distractions during these days and weeks
of anticipation and expectation, keeping us ever
mindful of the glory and wonder of
Your incarnate love.

Amen

Advent Week 1

Leader 1:

In our first week of Advent, we start to pierce the worldly darkness by
lighting the Prophet's candle. This candle symbolizes hope.

Hope of the fulfillment of God's word. Hope for the coming of a
Savior. Hope for a light in the perpetual darkness.

In a world that is so troubled by disease, poverty, social inequality,
and despair, hope is the shining beacon that lightens the heart, and
strengthens our resolve to go forward each day, knowing that all these
evils can be conquered by God's love and grace.

Leader 2:

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, in the form of a
baby, to give the
world a light of hope to dispel all darkness.

As we prepare for the arrival of Your most Glorious Gift, allow us to
ask ourselves;

...Where in our lives is hope the strongest?.....(*pause to reflect*)

...Likewise, where is hope most lacking?.....(*pause to reflect*)

...Where and with who can we share this grace of hope?...(*pause to reflect*)

All:

Fill me, Lord, with the light of Your hope, and show me where that
hope is most needed.

Direct me to those in my life who would benefit from my sharing of
this Grace.

A whisper of light pierces the encompassing darkness ... expectantly...
we wait.

Amen

Advent Week 2

Leader 1:

In this second week of Advent, the darkness is further diminished as
we
light our next candle. This is the Bethlehem candle, and it symbolizes
love.

Love of the Father that is so great that He sent His only Son to
become a gift of hope, love, and redemption for all of His holy people.

Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with such a love. Overflow us with
Your great
love, so that we may pour it out into the world around us. Help us to
love each other as You
love us - most especially those whom we find not so easy to love.

Leader 2:

As we move a week closer to the coming of our Savior, allow us some
time

to reflect on love in our lives;

...Where is there an abundance of this grace?....*(pause to reflect)*

...Likewise, where is there a deficit?..... *(pause to reflect)*

...Are there places where we withhold our love?....*(pause to reflect)*

...Are there times when we resist receiving love from others, or even
hesitate

to feel worthy of Your great love?....*(pause to reflect)*

All:

Help me, Heavenly Father, to be filled with the grace of Your Divine
love, not only at Christmas, but all through the year. Help heal past
hurts, and allow me to become a beacon of this Holy Grace. Point out
those around me who are in need of the light and warmth of such
love. Allow me to show the world that I am Your
disciple by the love that I show to others.

The darkness further diminishes..... expectantly we wait.

Amen

Advent Week 3

Leader 1:

This third week of Advent brings a considerable brightness as we light the Shepherds candle. The candle that symbolizes joy. Joy that God loves us, and is manifesting that love in the fulfillment of His word.

Joy in the promise of new life.

Joy that our Savior will be a great light that will shine upon the world, dispelling darkness, and creating a new order for us all.

Leader 2:

Heavenly Father, help us all to realize that joy can not exist without hope, and love. As we move closer to the celebration of Christ's birth, We ask ourselves;

...Are we truly joyful, or have we allowed the pressures of the season, and of life itself to stifle our joy?(pause to reflect)

...Have we filled our days with too many things that pull our attention from the grace of this season, and that leave us feeling exhausted and empty?... (pause to reflect)

Show us the things that we can let go of or completely hand over to You, in this holy season. May we be able to recognize those things which will nurture the grace of a most joyful heart.

All:

Sustain the light of joy within me, so that it touches everyone who is around me. Let it spread cheer and rejoicing for the Glory of our Savior's coming.

In the subtle glow of the fading darkness expectantly we wait.

Amen

Advent Week 4

Leader 1:

This fourth week of Advent reveals a warm glow as we light our last candle, which is the Angel candle. This candle represents peace. God's promise of peace. Often, peace is understood as the absence of conflict. Sadly, that definition leads us to believe that peace is something that we can bargain for, mandate and control. Yet God's plan for peace is about righteousness. It is a plan that brings everything back into alignment with what is pure and true. Peace (or Shalom) is the movement of rightness and justice that begins in the heart and spreads throughout the wider world. It can not be mandated, but must be embodied through faith, in our long awaited Savior, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Leader 2:

Heavenly Father, You sent the Messiah to come and bring peace to all Your children on earth. So we ask;

...Where have we been lacking in faith?.....*(pause to reflect)*

...Do we worry needlessly, and thereby deprive ourselves and those close to us of Your grace of peace?....*(pause to reflect)*

All:

Let me be an instrument of Your peace.

Please strengthen my faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, and prompt me into action in the face of lies and injustice. Help me to cultivate Your Divine Peace and let it surround me as I await the coming of Our Savior.

Through the brightening light.....we expectantly wait.

Amen

All:

The Day is Come

Rejoice, rejoice,
Christ our Savior has come.
Cast off the works of darkness,
put on the ways of light,
and clothe yourself with Christ.
Put on love to surround you,
put on hope to guide you,
put on joy to sustain you,
and clothe yourself
with Christ.
Rejoice at this dawn of
righteousness,
rejoice on this day of justice,
rejoice in the Prince of Peace,
and clothe yourself
with Christ.

- Christine Sine

May the glory of His Light
shine in us,
forevermore.

Amen

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be



Prayer to St. Joseph Patron of our Church

Leader:

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

He was chosen by the Eternal Father
as the trustworthy guardian and protector
of His greatest treasures, namely His
Divine Son and Mary, Joseph's wife.
He carried out his vocation

with complete fidelity until at last
God called him, saying:
“Good and faithful servant,
enter into the joy of your Lord”

-St. Bernardino of Siena

All:

He was there to show Jesus to the world
and to hide Him when need arose,
to protect and nourish Him
and then to follow Him at a distance
and remain in the shadows of the Lord's
mysteries, shadows which were
every now and then,
lit with a heavenly radiance,
by the light touch of
a passing angel.

- St. Pope John XXIII



R (All): St. Joseph, pray for us.

Leader:

....Please protect our families as you protected the Holy Family. **R**

....Guide us in the raising of our children and grandchildren. Help us to teach them how to be able to find Jesus near themselves, and to watch over Him faithfully, as you have done. **R**

....Pray for all our earthly fathers, encourage them to emulate you as a father and a spouse. **R**

....Stand guard over our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and guide him in any spiritual or earthly trials that he may face. **R**

....Please watch over and guide our pastor, Father Luke, and all our earthly priests. Strengthen them in faith, and protect them from all evil influences. May they always be able to embody the true Spirit of Christ to Shepard God's people. **R**

....We ask for additional prayers of spiritual guidance for the faith formation of our tenth graders, RCIA seekers, and all who are looking to join the Catholic Church. **R**

....Help us all to stay strong in faith, passionate for justice, and tender in mercy. **R**

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be



All:

Lastly, Loving God, we turn to You with these personal intentions, knowing that through You all things are possible. We ask not with the intention of changing Your will, but to secure blessings for Your people and Church throughout the world.

R: (All) Heavenly Father, hear our prayer

Leader:

....Loving God, we pray for the spiritual guidance of our bishop and church leaders as they work to heal the wounded and to re-define our Diocese. **R**

....Please keep our St. Peter Parish of Lewiston and Youngstown under Your watchful care. We ask the same for our family members from St. Raphael's. Walk closely with us as we face all adversity. Help us to keep the Spirit of Christ alive in our homes and communities. **R**

....We pray for the protection and continued spiritual growth of our children of all ages. May our St. Peter's School and Church stay strong and keep bringing the light of Your love to all who travel its halls and classrooms. **R**

....We pray for our Church, our community, and the world as a whole. We ask that all may receive the grace to see every human as a child of God, regardless of race, language, or culture. **R**

....We pray for universal recognition of the dignity and value of all human life, both born and unborn, that has been created with love and purpose by You. **R**

....We pray for an end to all the senseless shootings, war, and hatred that are happening throughout the world. **R**

....We pray for Your most gracious mercy on behalf of those who are suffering, and those who are dying alone. **R**

....We pray for those in most need of Your mercy and care, especially those on our parish prayer list. **R**

....We pray for the salvation of all our brothers and sisters who have passed from this life into the next. We also send special prayers for those souls who have no one left on earth to pray for them. **R**

Take this time to offer up our intentions for December.

....Take a moment to offer up the intentions most dear to your heart. **R**

In a world that is broken and often divided, it is important to share with each other those things in our lives that reflect God's mercy, love, and care.

All:

R- Thanks be to God.

All:

We ask You Lord, who is gracious and merciful, to hear these prayers that we bring before You, in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

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

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Amen



Advent

Prepare for the Journey to Bethlehem!

**You are cordially invited to join our
St. Peter Parish Prayer Group.**

**We meet every Monday. We offer two times,
Immediately following our 7:30am Mass or at
7:00pm at our St. Peter Worship Site.**

All Are Welcome