

Pat Stumbaugh - 573.220.9441 Broker Associate prstumbaugh@gmail.com

MillenniumF **KELLER**WILLIAMS

Phone: 573-564-1150 Fax: 573-564-1149 Website: m5realestate.com

573.489.2778

MILNER AGENCY REAL ESTATE

Julie Worsham Real Estate Agent



NG & COOLING 573-564-3020

573-220-2675

BUELL ACRES INC.

573.220.2606 marvin@buellacres.com

780 White Road Montgomery City, MO 63361 www.MilnerAgency.com | www.listingbook.com

worshami@sbcglobal.net | 1040 C South Sturgeon Office: 573.564.3433 Fax: 573.564.3030 | Montgomery City, Missouri 63361

Wing Shack

Montgomery City, MO 573-574-3099 Good Food! Good People! Good Times!

CONSULTING LLC

Gary D. Hoette President Michael R. Brown

Marketing Representative Home Remodel/Repair Farm Pond Repair

P. O. Box 243 gary@HFLconsulting.com Montgomery City, Mo. 63361

573.564.8117 888.878.8589 Fax jeff@myofficeplus.net www.myofficeplus.net



 ◆ Custom Design Work → WUPS® Shipping → Full Color Wide Format Printing → Business Cards → ◆ Faxing ◆ Outdoor Banners ◆ Yard Signs ◆ No Print Job Too Small or Large ◆ ♦ 200 Internet Solutions - Domains, Email, Website & Shopping Cart Hosting & More ♦

QUEATHEM INSURANCE, LLC

Serving the area for over 20 years

Crop & Hail

Home Farm Auto Life Business Health

Competitive Rates

Discounts Available

573.564.3896

131 N. Walker | Montgomery City | MO | 63361

Michael Auchly

Store: 573.574.3022 Cell: 636.448.1314 1005 S. Sturgeon | Montgomery City | MO | 63361 bundysllc@yahoo.com



2 Mitchell Road, Montgomery City (573) 564-2245

*Inspections *Diagnostic scan *Complete auto service & repair Raymond & Chris Welker, Owners

HERMANN

614 Market St. • PO Box 196 Hermann, MO 65041

Randy Hinkel Sales Consultant

Phone: 573-486-3113 Cell: 573-220-0731

rhinkel@hotmail.com www.hermannford.com

December 12 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 December 13 St. Lucy, Virgin Mt 11:16-19 December 14 St. John of the of the Church Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13 December 15 Third Sunday Zep 3:14-18a

Immaculate Conception 307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

573.564.2375 Parish Office | Office Hours M -Th 9am-3pm

Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org

Parish Council Members: Dennis Benney-President, Jack Wells-Vice-President

Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, Dennis Cobb, and Michael Smith

St. Patrick Parish

505 First St. | Jonesburg | Missouri | 63351



636.488.5623 Parish Office | Office Hours T—Th 9am-1pm

Debbie Enger, Secretary | stpats@centurytel.net | ww.stpatricksjonesburg.org Parish Council Members: Dan Schwartz-President, Barb Turpin-Vice-President Katherine Stroot-Secretary, Michael Van Beek & Jocelyn Schluss

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

MONDAY

December 9

Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

> **TUESDAY** December 10

Advent Weekday Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14 WEDNESDAY

December 11 Advent Weekdav Is 40:25-31

Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY

Our Lady of

Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17

FRIDAY

and Martyr

Is 48:17-19

SATURDAY

Cross, Priest

and Doctor

SUNDAY

of Advent

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

Fr. Ernest Dike, Parochial Administrator, edike@diojeffcity.org Bulletin Deadline is 9:00 AM on Wednesdays!

December 8, 2024 - Second Sunday of Advent

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exit in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

St. Patrick Parish Mission

As a church community here at St. Patrick, we want to know, love and serve Jesus in our efforts in: Christian formation/faith development; worship; social services; and stewardship



Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

oming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretentions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again.

Reflect-

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?

© 2024 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS, A MINISTRY OF THE REDEMPTORISTS • IMAGE: JACOB LUND / SHUTTERSTOCK

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick

Mon	December 9th (Feast of Immaculate	5:30 PM e Conceptio	Montgomery City on of the Blessed Virgin	+Comfort N. Dike n Mary)
Tue	December 10th	5:30 PM	Montgomery City	+Jim Walker
Wed	December 11th	8:30 AM	Jonesburg	+Dottie Brauer
Thur	December 12th	8:00 AM	Montgomery City	+Vincent & Delores Schimweg
Fri	December 13th	8:00 AM	Montgomery City	+Jim Cochran, Jr.
Sat	December 14th	5:00 PM	Montgomery City	+Lafe O'Bryan
Sun	December 15th	8:00 AM	Jonesburg	+

A reminder: If there is a funeral at any of the two parishes or a school cancellation due to weather, there will be no scheduled Mass

10:00 AM Montgomery City

Immaculate Conception Parish & School				
	Income	Expenses	Difference	
Fiscal Jul 24-Oct 24, YTD	\$234,792.73	\$256,413.87	-\$21,621.14	
October	\$52,341.80	\$51,613.26	\$728.54	
	Church	ICS/Daycare	Total	
December 1st	\$4,131.00	\$5,243.00	\$9,374.00	
December 8th				
December 15th				
December 22nd				
December 29th				
Weekly Goal	\$13,233.00	Wkly Avg	\$9,374.00	

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements - \$90.00

Christmas Flowers - \$277.00

Holy Days - \$50.00

M--- Mini-4-i--

Your **Gifts** to **God!**

- Our Parish family

Thank **You!**



Danamilan 444b 0 454b

Budget Goal FY 25 \$76,000.00 Total Collected YTD \$21,501.00 Church December 1st December 8th December 15th December 22nd

December 29th

Weekly Goal

appointment.

call for details.

Who is an Active Parishioner?

home-bound, please call the parish office.

- Registered in the parish.
- ◆Regularly participates in Mass and the Sacraments.

Sacraments & Information

Sacrament of Reconciliation: IC Sat 4:15PM-4:45PM, SP Sun 7:15AM or

Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation: Call the parish office to set up an

Sacrament of Marriage: Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.

To Become a Catholic: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Please

Hospitalization: If you are hospitalized or have a family member who is

St. Patrick Parish

Income

Expenses Difference

Wkly Avg

Total

Parish Membership: Please call the parish office to register.

- Supports the parish financially.
- ◆Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form and fulfills that commitment.

	Mass Ministries	December 7th & 8th	December 14th & 15th	December 21st & 22nd	December 28th & 29th
IC SAT 5PM	Lector	Beth Cobb	Dennis Benney	Beth Roesner	Gary Hoette
	Children's Liturgy				
	Eucharistic Minister	Gary Hoette	Beth Cobb	Megan Hans	Dennis Cobb
	Ministers of Hospitality	Jacob & Megan Hans Family	Daryl & Nancy Cobb Bob Dryden	Cothren Family	Bill & Liz Huston Steve & Beth Cobb
_	Servers	Lila Broz & Malorie Schulte	Mercer Cothren & Emelia Hans	Ella Hans & Reed Pottebaum	Liz Broz & Jacob Roesner
	Money Counters	John/Aggie Baldetti & Darryl Rhoads	Don /Sandy Oakes & Megan Hans	Dottie Brueggen & Debbie Heidelberger	Dennis Cobb & Daryl Rhoads
SUN 10AM	Lector	Pat Stumbaugh	Michael Readey	Amanda Arens	Michael Smith
	Children's Liturgy	Bonnie Walker	Anna Harrell	Dianne Talley	Geri Park
	Eucharistic Minister	Jack Wells	Dennis Cobb	Jacob Lotton	Eileen Lotton
	Ministers of Hospitality	Jeff & Amanda Arens Steve Williams & Julie Worsham	Pat & Janet Stumbaugh Dave & Janet Cobb	Charlie & Pat Korman Ron & Dianne Talley	Jerry Neale & Tony Wessel Melissa & Justin Beabout
ပ	Servers	Tinley Anderson & Leyla Beabout	Alena & Natalie Beabout	Elizabeth Schierhoff & Kendra Rakers	Keagan Rakers & Carl Smith
	Money Counters	Cathy McCormack & Pam Schwartz	Vickie Parker & Dave Teeter	Mark Brower & Steve Williams	Dottie Brueggen & Carla Parker
SP SUN 8AM	Hospitality/Usher	Ellis Family	Farrar Family	Lenzenhuber//Dothage	
	Altar Clean Up Only	Laurie Dothage	Jan Milzark	Jan Milzark	Jan Milzark
	Lector	Laurie Gilbert	Donna Cobb	Bridget Cobb	Sarah Johnson
	Servers	Anna Johnson & Luke Farrar	Emma Cobb & Cark Johnson		
	Eucharistic Minister	Bridget Cobb	Nancy Cobb	John Cobb, Sr.	
	Money Counters	Gracie Cobb & Jan Milzark	Brad Ellis & Derrick Cobb	Katherine Stroot & Laurie Dothage	

Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (Ineffabilis Deus). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Bishop McKnight's December prayer intention for our Local Church

For hope to find a home in our hearts as we embrace the joy of Christ's birth. Amid the jubilation, may we also find time in prayer to experience the calm and peace of God's presence in our lives.





A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go "beyond" where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us.... Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds.... Let us ask for the grace of hope....

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021



© 2024 Liguori Publications. Imprimatur: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on January 25, 2024, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work may be used in any form without the prior endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission.* No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition of 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of A Redemptorist Ministry Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Download our latest catalog, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena

Cardinal Burke is ending the 9-month daily Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe by having a large celebration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. It will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2024. He will celebrate Mass at 12:15 PM in the afternoon with an Act of Consecration. You can watch it on channel EWTN or the shrine's livestream. There are other Masses at 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM where he will be sitting in the choir. All three Masses are streamed.

And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:9-10

St. Paul's words to the Philippians continue to ring true to us today as disciples of Christ. We are each on our own journey of faith. Through formation and prayer, we are able to grow in knowledge and love as we grow closer to God.







The Diocese of Jefferson City is preparing for the 2025 Jubilee. This holy year will invite the faithful to embrace the spirit of hope.

The Jubilee Year will provide opportunities to experience grace, including by participating in special Jubilee Masses or joining a pilgrimage.

The diocese has launched a new webpage with information about how we will be celebrating the Jubilee. More information may be found at: https://diojeffcity.org/jubileeyear/.



Thank You for Your Support

The ICS 6th and 8th graders would like to thank the parishioners for the overwhelming support of our Bake Sale. We were so pleased with how it turned out! We are planning to do another one March 1-2, just before Lent.

			Upcoming Events and Announcements	†		
Monday	Dec. 9th	IC	6:30 PM - St. Vincent dePaul	IHS		
Tuesday	Dec. 10th	IC IC IC SP	6:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Adoration 1:00 PM - K0f C Ladies Auxiliary 5:00 PM - Benediction & Devotion to Divine Mercy 6:30 PM - Small Group Study @ Parish House	See!		
Wednesday	Dec. 11th	SP SP IC	Following 8:30 AM Mass - Breakfast @ The Warehouse - all are welcome! 9:00 AM - Small Group Study @ Parish Hall 6:00 PM - Movie "The Chosen" @ KC Hall	carved you on the palm of my hand. Isaiah 49:15 Welcome everyone.		
Thursday	Dec. 12th	IC SP	10:00 AM - Ministerial Alliance 6:00 PM - Penance Service	On Tuesdays starting at 6:00 AM we have Eucharistic Adoration: a special time to		
Friday	Dec. 13th			worship and praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and to deepen your intimate friendship and be		
Saturday	Dec. 14th	SP	10:00-11:30 AM - Grief Class at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jonesburg	nourished and strengthened by His presence and love. At 5:00 PM Adoration will close with Devotion to the		
Sunday	Dec, 15th	IC SP SP	4:15-6:15 PM - PSR & Confirmation Class After 8:00 AM Mass - Coffee & Donuts in Parish Hall - all are welcome 11:30 AM - Parish Christmas Party	Divine Mercy and Benediction. Mass will start at 5:30 PM.		

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Residents of St. Andrews New Florence Nursing & Care Center Hwv 19 & Picnic Road, New Florence, MO 63363 Susie Ryan, Bill & Lucille Muenz, and Mike Busken

Resident of Victorian Manor 1800 Wein St, Hermann, MO 65041 Peggy Gardner

Residents of Stonebridge in Hermann 2120 Village Lane, Hermann, MO 65041 Tony & Laverne Wessel, Sr.



Residents of **Aspire Nursing Home** 308 Cedar Avenue, Jonesburg, MO 63351

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE STRUGGLING, SICK AND INFIRMED:

Al & Christine Barger, Beau Boschenreither, Geoff Brueggen, Elizabeth Brueggen, Molly Brueggen, Larry Brueggemann, Marion Bullerdick, Parker Calbreath, Robert Carillo, Becky Cothren, Clint Cunningham, Marla Daniels, Tom Eggering, Jean Fishback, Sheryl Gibbs, Lucille Griesbauer, Anna Gross, Ed Grillo, Henry Hamill, Michael & Grace Hanneken, Ken Hocke, Antoinette Hoing, Ingrid Keller, Genevieve Kelly, Pat Kline, Pat Merz, Jan Milzark, Kathleen Mohrmann, Lyndsey O'Bryan, Alice O'Donnell, Margaret O'Donnell, Terry Parker, Peatross Family, Avery Penn, Rae Jean Rhoads, Shirley Rose, Susie Ryan, John Rybacki, Nick Schneider, Ruth Schneider, Evelyn Strauss, Katherine Stroot, Londa Swoboda, Ed Torbeck, Barb Turpin, Margaret Van Beek, Tony Wessel, Sr., Jim Wortmann, Don Zerr



PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES.

Brandon Wells, Noah Richard, Dylan Willis, Daniel Lohmann, and Donnie Wisdom



Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church And gave himself up for her. ~Ephesians 5:25



Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!

There are no anniversaries to celebrate this week.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating in December

3rd - Mike Claussen

29th - Christina Poggas 8th - Karen Stenger 29th - Alan Schluss

9th - Alice O'Donnell

10th - Pauline Horstdaniel

12th - Elizabeth Barclay 12th - Terri Lenzenhuber

20th - John Woods



Holiday Mass & Penance Service Schedule

Penance Service:

December 12th - 6:00 PM at St. Patrick

December 19th - 6:00 PM at Immaculate Conception

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day:

Dec. 24th - 5:00 PM Vigil Mass at Immaculate Con. Dec. 24th - 10:30 PM Midnight Mass at St. Patrick Dec. 25th - 10:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

New Year's Day (January 1, 2025)

8:00 AM Mass at St. Patrick

10:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Movie Night Reminder

The Chosen" will be shown this coming Wednesday, December 11th, 6:00 PM at the KC Hall in Montgomery City. We hope you can join us!

St. Patrick Parish Christmas Party

Parish Christmas party will be Sunday December 15th at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be served at Noon.



KOC Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary meeting on December 10th will be held at the KOC building at noon and not at 1:00 at Kim's house.

IC School Christmas Program

Do you want to hear the melodious voices of children who love to lift up their voices in joyous songs? Do you want to see beautiful smiles on faces of happy children? Or, just feel the gentleness of this glorious season? Fantastic!! Come expe-



rience the wonderment as the IC students perform their Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:00 PM at the church. If you are unable to attend the evening performance, you may attend the dress rehearsal /matinee at 1:00 PM. All are invited. See you there!

Trivia Night Thank You

Dear Parishioners.

Thank you so much for attending our Trivia Night! We hope you had as much fun as we did and enjoyed testing your knowledge. Your participation helped make the event a great success, and we truly appreciate your support in making this a memorable evening for everyone involved. We look forward to seeing you at future events, and thank you once again for being part of such a special night.

Warmly.

All of Immaculate Conception Students, Staff and Families

Envelopes & Calendars at St. Patrick's

Your box of Sunday Contribution Envelopes are available to pick up in the Church Lobby, they are in numerical order not alphabetically.

2025 Calendars are available in the Church Lobby

Envelopes & Calendars at IC

The 2025 calendars are in the church vestibule. We want to thank Korman Auction Service and Bainbridge Insurance for purchasing the calendars for us!

If you need an envelope for Christmas Flower donations, they are also in the vestibule. If you would like to make a donation, please leave it in the locked box in the vestibule or drop it in the collection basket.

IC Liturgical Ministries for Christmas Season

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for the Christmas season. If you can help out at any of the Masses, please sign up! -----

Christmas Masses - Music at IC

Music will begin on Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM and Christmas Day at 9:30 PM prior to both Masses.

Change in Adoration Schedule at IC

There will be NO Tuesday Adoration at Immaculate Conception on December 24th.

Immaculate Conception School News

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | 573.564.2679 - School Office | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.ord



EXIT INTERVIEW

When a child or teacher leaves Immaculate Conception School, an "exit interview" is sent to the family or teacher by our pastor, Fr. Ernest Dike. A stamped envelope addressed to Fr. Ernest Dike is included This information is kept confidential, but the ideas or concerns can be shared to help improve our parish

The following are the questions asked on the exit interview.

What initially attracted your family to Immaculate Conception School?

What was the primary reason you chose Immaculate Conception over other options?

What aspects of Immaculate Conception School met or exceeded your expectations, please be specific.

What aspects of Immaculate Conception School failed to meet your expectations?

What was your primary reasons for leaving Immaculate School?

What could have been done to retain your family?

What factors might entice you to return to Immaculate Conception School?

What is one improvement ICS could make that would significantly enhance the experience for students?

What is one improvement ICS could make that would enhance the experience for parents?

On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to recommend Immaculate Conception to your family and friends? Do you have any other feedback that would help Immaculate Conception School improve?

Father Ernest appreciates your honesty an feedback as we continually strive to provide the highest possible level of education to our students.

If any parishioner have been involved in the school since it re-opened in 1991 and feel they would like to complete a survey please complete and return it to Father Ernest Dike.

Important Dates to Remember

December 3rd to 12th **Book Fair**

December 11th - 7:15 AM Treats With My Peeps

December 16th

School IN Session

December 17th Picture Retakes

December 18th - 6:00 PM Advent/Christmas Program

December 19th

Christmas Parties-9-11:00 AM Early Dismissal 12:00 pm

End of 2nd Quarter

December 20th - January 3rd Christmas Break

9 Powerful and Practical Ways to Celebrate Advent **Adapted from Ascension Articles**

By: Julia Morgensai

- Visit the lonely. Throughout Advent, there are plenty of opportunities for volunteering in our parish and community. But service doesn't have to be organized. Saint Mother Teresa said, "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." Reach out to someone who is lonely in your neighborhood, your church, or your extended family. Ask them to coffee, invite them for dinner, drop off some cookies, or have a phone conversation. Ask them questions about their lives. This type of simple connection is a tremendously powerful way to see Jesus in another person and help them realize the dignity within themselves.
- Grow closer to the saints. The liturgical calendar dedicates saints to each day of the week, and this is a beautiful way to connect with our community in heaven. Each day throughout Advent, read about the saint of the day and ask for their intercession for someone or something close to your heart. By Christmas time, you will have a whole group of saints cheering you on.
- Pray with an Advent devotional. It is easy for the Christmas story to feel far away from our lives—like a fairy tale that starts with "Once upon a time in a faraway land." By using a guided Advent journal or program, you can be guided with meditations and prayers that will provide a manageable portion to pray through each day.
- Use Christmas cards as prayer reminders. As Christmas cards arrive during December, place them in a basket in a noticeable area. Once a day, pull out one card and pray for that person. You can write the person a note signed by your family or send them a text that says, "We prayed for you today."
- Begin an evening practice of expectant prayer. If you feel rushed and out of control, this is a profound step towards a prayer rhythm. At the beginning of Advent, set a daily reminder on your phone, your watch, or a note on your bathroom mirror—however it works in your daily rhythm. Sit in a quiet place and don't feel pressure to come up with words to pray or to read Scripture. Allow yourself to wait for God's presence to break through in the middle of the crazy.
- Write notes of encouragement. The world is waiting for the promises of God to be fulfilled. Buy a stack of beautiful holiday cards and take a little time each evening to write a note of encouragement and gratitude to the people in your life. Include in this list both the people you know are struggling and those who seem to be doing just fine. We all need reminders that we're seen, loved, and known
- Visit a live Nativity. In a live Nativity, real people dress up as the characters from the Christmas story. By seeing the characters as live people, it reminds us that Mary, Joseph, and the animals were real, too. When we see the tangible nature of the Christmas story, the beautiful truths it reveals become tangible, too. Many churches put these live presentations on—find one in your community.
- Fast. In our society, it is very difficult to fast from all treats during Advent, since anticipatory Christmas goodies are served everywhere you go. The most effective fasting during this season would be to fast from noise, franticness, and media. Try to cut back on news, sports, entertainment, politics, frantic errands, and other avoidable distractions, opening up more space for prayer in your day.
- Be patient with yourself. St. Francis de Sales said, "Be patient with all things, but first of all with yourself." As we approach various Advent practices, remember that God wants your heart more than anything. He wants your imperfect efforts. He wants more for us and not more from us.
- May the peace of Christ dwell richly in your heart this season.



Prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent with daily prayer on **Hallow**

"My morning meditation and prayer time have increased substantially since I heard about and joined Hallow during Advent. My faith has deepened in ways that words just cannot describe. I am blessed and so grateful!"

"This Advent challenge pierced my heart. My heart wasn't open enough to Christ before, but now it's like a spark of light came into it."

"I am so much more aware of God's presence in my everyday life because of Hallow's Advent Challenge."



Scan the QR code to sign up hallow.com/pray

DAILY PRAYERS

Start your day with the Daily Gospel, Rosary, imaginative prayer or one of over 10,000 sessions, including daily meditations, homilies, reflections, and Bible studies.

FAMILY CONTENT & KIDS CHALLENGE

Pray as a family with weekly Mass Prep, Saints Alive, Kids Holy Hour and guide your little ones through the season with our Advent challenge for children.

BIBLE STORIES & SLEEP CONTENT

Close your day with Christ with Night Prayer, an Examen, or a Rosary with guests like Bishop Barron, Mark Wahlberg, and Jonathan Roumie.





