
Catholic Education:
We Are
Called To
Love



**"If we love one another, God lives in us."
(1 John 4:12)**

Advent Prayer Service

As people of hope

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing."
Romans 15:13*



Suggested Opening Songs

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZggySBbro>

[c](#)

Come Jesus, Prince of Peace

<https://youtu.be/UaWX-k11Gwo>

Maranatha, Lord Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhrsSTXXNF>

[g](#)



Opening Prayer

Loving God,

We enter this Advent season with hearts full of hope.

In this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope, peace, joy and love you unfailingly offer us.

Let our lives be inspired by the power of hope as we welcome Jesus into our hearts once again.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by your joy, that we may walk in the peace and light of Christ as people of hope.

Amen.



Litany of Hope

God of hope, your Son has shown us the way to love ourselves, others, and you.
His life has been our greatest example of selfless love.

As people of hope, may we...

All: Inspire our youth to look ahead and grow with optimism.

As people of hope, may we...

All: Fuel our own positive outlooks for our future endeavours.

As people of hope, may we...

All: Feed our souls with the promise of everlasting life.

As we prepare to remember the birth of Emmanuel during the Advent season, may our hope...

All: Show us our true connection as faithful members of God's family.

As we wait for the promised coming of Emmanuel, God with us, God for us, God in us.

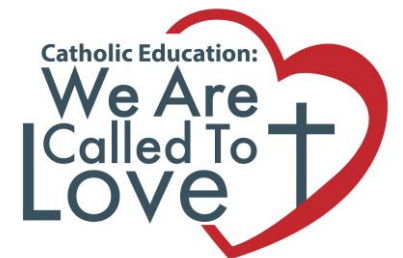
May our hope...

All: Lead us ever closer to everlasting life in God's kingdom through the love of his Son, our Redeemer and King, Jesus Christ, whose coming we await this coming Advent. Amen.

And may almighty God bless us.

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

Let us remain in the peace of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Reading: Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey: when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with a particular task, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else, he might find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you, I say to all: Keep awake!”

The Gospel of the Lord. ***R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***



Questions for Personal Reflection

This Advent rather than pass the time by simply checking off the days in a calendar, how can you seek to encounter Jesus in the opportunities this season offers?

In this season of preparing our hearts, what are some actions that you could adopt?

Examples of Personal Advent Practices

- Think of ways to bring a spirit of hope to your community.
- Receive the Sacrament of Confession. God is waiting to encounter us in this Sacrament of Mercy.
- Pick some spiritual reading – a book about the life of a saint or open the Bible and reflect on scripture.
 - Find a ministry that needs help. Perhaps a volunteer opportunity like a soup kitchen, or a parish or youth ministry program – and spend some time bringing Jesus to those who are most in need.



Prayer of the Faithful

The response to the petition is: ***R. Come, Lord Jesus.***

For the Church throughout the world, awaiting the coming of Christ in glory. We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

That leaders of government may find instruction in the Word of the Lord and work tirelessly for that justice which is the foundation of peace. We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For those who inhabit spaces of poverty, depression, or loss in the midst of Christmas joy, that they are given gifts of comfort and hope to ease their darkness. We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

That we may welcome Christ into our hearts and embody Christ in our actions and in our words.
We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For the consolation and healing of all persons who bear with ill health, that they and their loved ones trust our God for whom all things are possible and for those who have died recently... that they be
Crowned with everlasting joy. We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts... We pray to the Lord. ***R.***



Closing Prayer

Loving God,
Grant us strength to be people of hope.
May we continue to be strengthened by the light of hope that shines from
our advent candle.
God of hope, who brought love, peace, and joy into this world, always be the
centre and the focus of our lives.
God of hope, we seek you.
May your hope fill our hearts and grace our lives so that we
Might reflect your hope for all the world.
Amen.



Suggested Closing Songs

Ready the Way by Curtis Stephan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GGd6n5g8bo>

O Come Divine Messiah

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TM4bX9t_jU

Hope for Everyone by Matt Maher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-ThP8qEio4>

