

December 2017

Be watchful! Be alert! I say to all: Watch! (Mark 13: 33-37)

The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. (Luke 1: 26-38)

Behold, I send my messenger ahead of you. He will prepare your way. (Mark 1: 1-8)

Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you would be fulfilled. (Luke 1: 39-47)

I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord. (John 1: 6-8)

Behold, you will conceive and bear a son...he will be called Son of the Most High. (Luke 1: 26--38)

The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel. (Matthew 1: 18-24)

Glory to God in high heaven, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests. (Luke 2: 1-14)

And the Word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1: 1-18)

The Word was enfleshed in humanity and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son, Jesus, the Christ. Pour forth we beg you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may, through His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

We ask this through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

1

If we are imitators of Jesus Christ and face up to all life's battles, we too will share in His victories.

2

Let us firmly believe that our divine Redeemer is adorned with great glory ...

3

Let us continue to live for His glory imitating His example and following out His will.

4

Our faith will avail us nothing if our actions do not bear it out.

5

May God's will be done! ... for the Lord arranges all for His greater glory.

6

I fix my gaze on the One who moves me ... and who is the source of wisdom ...

7

God in His infinite wisdom has placed in our hands all the necessary means for the embellishment of our souls...

8

The soul's cooperation with divine grace is all that is required to enable it to develop ...

9

Be encouraged not to despair of being saved.

10

(In Baptism) we die to sin and are grafted onto Jesus Christ in such a way as to live by His very life.

11

It is the duty of each Christian to seek the things of heaven and not to care about the things of this earth.

12

Aspire continually to the home of the blessed and consider (yourself) as a pilgrim in this land of exile.

13

The true Christian who follows his vocation directs all his attention ... to securing eternal possession.

14

Look on the things of this world ... as to esteem and appreciate only those which help to obtain eternal things.

15

Despise all things which do not help to obtain what is eternal.

16

Enter into yourself and remember that by your baptism you renounced the world and are dead to it.

17

Those who live according to the spirit of Jesus will not always remain hidden and unknown.

18

The Christian sanctified by baptism is not exempt from the rebellion of the senses and passions.

19

Even when carnal impulses are violently felt, there can be no sin when the will does not con-sent to them.

20

The good Christian must beware of those vices which offend our neighbor by interior acts or by his speech.

21

We Christians are therefore images of God twice over, by nature and by grace.

22

Sanctifying grace impresses the image of God ... that we ourselves become divine by participation

23

How great a dignity is ours!

24

Christian perfection consists in this alone: ... love... which binds all together in perfect harmony.

25

Charity...is the virtue that makes us all children of the one Father who is in heaven.

26

Let us love and practice charity, as this is our divine Master's precept.

27

In our love for charity, we must flee from even the shadow of anything that might dim its splendor.

28

We are all members of Jesus Christ who is the head of us all, the members of the body.

29

If we keep our love for one another, the beautiful peace of Jesus will invariably triumph in our hearts.

30

If the Christian is full of God's law ... he will never fail, no matter what adversities may befall him.

31

The Christian who is striving for perfection will understand how very necessary meditation is.

* Advent *
Prayer to Padre Pio
(everyday)

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, you came, as the Baptist of old, into the spiritual wilderness of our world. You were a messenger sent to prepare people's hearts for the Lord to enter them. Pray that I may be a fertile ground in which God's Word may enter and live. Padre Pio, you want your Spiritual Children to live in God's Will and graces. Pray that we accept His Way to walk, His Truth to speak, and His Life to live. As we joyfully await and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus, pray that we may follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit, live more fully the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and thus come to the Father, Source of all Life, Whose love for us endures for ever and ever. Amen.

To the Blessed Trinity

Most Blessed Trinity whom I adore, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Help me to be firmly rooted in Your Will today, as if my soul were already in eternity. May nothing be able to trouble my peace or make me leave you. Stay with me, Lord, and lead me more deeply into your Mystery. Grant me peace and serenity today. In the love you bore our Father, Padre Pio, make our hearts your dwelling place that we may never abandon You. As Spiritual Children of Padre Pio, who bore the marks of Jesus' saving Sacrifice, make us vigilant in faith, constant in hope, and undying in our love for You and all people. You live and reign forever. Amen.

(The following Antiphons are read as brief intercessions every day. The Antiphons are titles given to the long-awaited Messiah. The Church prays them during the week before Christmas in the Liturgy of the Hours and as the alleluia verse at Mass. We use them in prayer this month as our daily invocation for the Savior to bless and protect us.)

Preparatory Prayer

Lord Jesus, you came to save your people. Blessed are we who celebrate Your wonderful Incarnation. Hear us as we pray with the prophetic titles that Israel of old offered in hopeful anticipation of Your coming:

Antiphony Intercessions
(everyday)

Wisdom of our God most high,
teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge

Leader of Ancient Israel,
rescue us with your mighty power.

Flower of Jesse's Stem,
save us without delay.

Key of David,
free those imprisoned in the darkness of ignorance.

Radiant Dawn:
shine on those lost in the darkness of spiritual death.

King of all nations:
save humanity, your own creation.

Emmanuel,
you are God's presence among us,
save us, your people

Our Lady, Mother of the Redeemer:

Holy Mother Mary, ever-virgin yet fruitful woman, in the name of all humanity, your availability to the Father's Will offered the Eternal God a dwelling place in time. I thank you for your openness to the Divine challenge to become the Mother of the redeemed, as You trustingly accepted to be the Mother of the Redeemer. With hopeful heart, you awaited the fulfillment of the Father's Will. You gazed with awe at the Eternal Love you held in your arms and faithfully accompanied Jesus in His life through His ministry even to the Cross. Be with me today and every day, that I may await the Lord in joyful expectation of His coming in glory. May I gaze with awe at His Hidden yet Real Presence in the Mystery of the Eucharist, where He is enfleshed in those who receive him. Mother of the Redeemer and redeemed, the Christ and the Christian, lead me to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who lives for ever. Amen.

Holy Father, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, lover of the Eucharist, pray for us.

Holy Father, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, lover of Our Lady, pray for us.

Holy Father, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, lover of Christ's Mystical body, the Church, pray for us.

**** Christmastime ****

Father, you gave the human race eternal salvation through the motherhood of the Virgin Mary. May we experience the help of her prayers in our lives, for through her we received the very source of life, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

(Pray following Antiphon everyday):

The Word was enfleshed in humanity and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son, Jesus, the Christ.

(Conclude with the following prayers):

God of time and of eternity, with Christmas joy we praise you for the year gone by and for all that lies ahead. The Birth of Jesus opens our eyes and our hearts to the beginning of a new year of salvation. Your Son comes among us to bring glad tidings to the poor and to proclaim peace to all people of good will. May Jesus whom I adore as my Lord and Savior help me to live in The Word, Who leads me to you who lives with Him and the Spirit, for ever.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and my Mother, pray to God for me, who have recourse to you. Pray that one day I may enter the fullness of eternity, as Jesus, through You, became one with us in all things but sin, entering into time. Amen.

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, Father and Guide for many who seek a deeper encounter with Jesus and Mary, as we celebrate Jesus' birth in time, pray for us that we may be worthy to have Him come into our hearts. The Christ Child of Bethlehem calls us to that spiritual childhood that you never lost. Pray for us that we may be the children of God we were created to be. Be our guide and advocate as we strive to live in the Father's will, through Jesus His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.