

## December 2023

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

*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word. (Luke 1: 26-38)*

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.*

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths. (Mark 1: 1-18)*

*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me as you have said. (Luke 1: 26-38)*

*A man was sent from God...to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. (John 1: 6-8; 19-28)*

*Hail full of grace! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid for you have found favor with God. (Luke 1: 26-38)*

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favors rests. (Luke 2: 1-14)*

*Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2: 15-20)*

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,*

*and we saw his glory...full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-18)*

*Behold, this child is destined for the rise and fall of many, and to be a sign that will be contradicted. (Luke 2: 22-40)*

*Ever-loving and all-providing God, Father-Son-Holy Spirit - we love, we forgive, and we ask forgiveness of You. May we love others and thus be life-giving in You for them. You loved us into life and love us each moment toward eternal life. ... The Word was made flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of Your only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ. ... And confidently we pray: 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 ... May the redemption Jesus' life, death, and resurrection acquired for us, through His sacred humanity and divinity, cleanse us and open our hearts towards one another. May the birth we celebrate of Jesus in Bethlehem be a sign of His rebirth in the Spirit in each one of us. We ask this Father, through Jesus Your Son en-fleshed in human nature, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, living and reigning forever. 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 consent 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. SUBLIME HUMILITY! HUMBLE SUBLIMITY!

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

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

29

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

30

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

31

If the Christian is full of God's law he will never fail, no matter what adversities may befall him. The Word was enfleshed in humanity and made His dwelling among us.

***Alleluia! We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son, Jesus, the Christ.  
Alleluia!***

## **Brief Prayers for the Advent/Christmas Journey**

### **\* Advent \***

**TO THE BLESSED TRINITY**(everyday) - 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 and Spiritual Guide, 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** (everyday) - 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:

### **ANTIPHONARY 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 forever. Amen.

**ST. JOSEPH, FOSTER AND MESSIANIC FATHER OF JESUS**, most Pure Spouse of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, your silence and strength throughout the mystery of the Incarnation and Birth of Jesus fill me with awe. The grace of God chose you to be the husband of the *Virgin Made Church* Whose "yes" to the impossible allowed God to enter creation as one of His own creatures. You were called and responded with your "yes" through the darkness of faith enlightened by the bright certitude of loving trust in God and your beloved wife. Look with love upon me as I invoke your powerful intercessor. May your example of serene faith in the mystery, silent trust in the promise, and self-effacing love and total availability to the will of God encourage me to live totally abandoned to God's will for me. Be a Father to me as your wife, Mary, is a Mother.

**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 and Redeemer 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 forever and 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 and good St. Joseph, 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, forever and ever. Amen

(Pray the 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 in time with us in all things but sin. Keep me in the warmth of your Motherly Heart. Assist me to say "yes" as you did, even to what seems absurd or impossible. Thus, Christ will be the image of One I see with my eyes, the truth I accept with my minds, and the life I seek with all my heart and soul. Mother, never let me go astray.

**Good St. Joseph**, the unexpected challenges you encountered protecting Mary and the Infant Jesus could not alter the trust you placed in the God of Israel. You found strength in His presence within your heart. May I have the strength like yours to believe what I cannot see so that I can see what I believe...MY LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

**Padre Pio of Pietrelcina**, you are 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

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

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

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