



GLENMARY
HOME MISSIONERS

ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS

growing closer to Christ

2025

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Advent marks a new beginning. It's a gift, one that those who died last year no longer receive.

Let us pray: Lord, thank you for another Advent, a season of grace to draw closer to you.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11

Isaiah's vision depicts a world where war is so unthinkable, there is no need to even prepare for it! Compare this to the realization that much of humanity and its resources are spent in preventing, preparing for, or carrying out war. The Messiah has a better way.

Let us pray: Lord, bless the peacemakers, and count me in their number.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

I believe sometimes our trust in God comes with conditions and hesitancy—which translates as the opposite of a trust that is “childlike.”

Let us pray: Lord, forgive me for the conditional trust I have offered; help me be more childlike.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Our reading from Isaiah is one often used at funerals—and for good reason. For believers, death is not the end, just the end of the beginning. Human pain is real, as Jesus himself demonstrated. But God's promise is every bit as real.

Let us pray: Lord, help us to remember your promise in the midst of our sorrows.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

In today's Gospel, Jesus is reminding us that mere words aren't enough. It's far easier to talk about forgiveness than to actually forgive a wrong.

Let us pray: Lord, may my prayer energize my actions in carrying out your will.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

In the midst of the darknesses of the world, the Psalmist's words carry the day. Christ's light illuminates far better than any other.

Let us pray: Lord, enlighten my mind to know you, and my heart to serve you.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Before Mass I like to pray with the altar servers that every individual attending that Mass receives the special grace each needs that day. I hope that recognizing the needs reflected in the faces I see enables me to be a better shepherd.

Let us pray: Lord, help me to recognize the needs I encounter and to have the courage to respond.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Advent is a great time to wake up and open up to grace! Today, God says, "Prepare his way. Make straight his paths."

Let us pray: Lord, help me to wake up! Give me your grace today to do just one thing that will help me focus on your coming in my life.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Mary was greatly troubled, and I can be the same way. Yet, “May it be done to me according to your word.” May we have courage, even in fear, to surrender and trust in God’s will for us amid uncertainty and things that seem impossible.

Let us pray: Mother Mary, remind me how to boldly embrace the call God has for me no matter my discomfort.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

I imagine there are a thousand ways I miss the little movements of God in a day because I am so distracted by all the things. My life moves so quickly that I am often too busy and overlook the one moment God might have given me in the day to really see the “one” in front of me.

Let us pray: Lord, reveal your grace and mercy to me today. Help me to slow down and simply be present with you.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Today’s verse from Matthew is extremely helpful in times of hardship. Jesus knows our pain and our sorrow. He will hold us, walk with us, and embrace us. We are not alone. With Jesus, all our burdens are light.

Let us pray: Even in my time of doubt and sorrow, Lord, give me strength. May I trust in Jesus. May I have faith that he is carrying my burdens and will give me rest.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Every person is a child of God. Everyone is important to the Lord. There really is no “least” in the eyes

of the Lord. You are not the least, nor are you the best. Yet, you are favored by God today and every day.

Let us pray: Lord, may I not judge the worth of anyone. May I accept my own giftedness and special place in God's family. May all people live as brothers and sisters.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531, and the Catholic faith in Mexico increased. The devotion to her intercession and her message of affirmation to the poor and indigenous peoples is part of her attraction.

Let us pray: May all people find hope in the love of Our Lady of Guadalupe. May indigenous people around the world have their rights and dignity protected. May pregnant women and unborn children find the support they need from heaven and from us on earth.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

It will be a great day when I can see Jesus face-to-face. In the meantime, I wish to see his face in my heart and my soul. I wish to see his face in my neighbors as well. To do so, I need to turn away from selfishness, from judgment, and from my own blinding sin, so I can see his radiant face in the world today as I hope to see it in heaven.

Let us pray: Lord may I turn to you in all things and at all times. May I experience your love now so I may see your face in heaven. Thank you for saving us.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

John the Baptist preached repentance as a way to get ready for the coming Messiah. Repentance, fundamentally, is restoring or renewing our relationship

with God. That involves our frank admission of our shortcomings (sin) and a renewed commitment to be open to love.

Let us pray: Thank you, God! Put your song in my heart today. Let me be glad to be close to you, let me be glad for all of the good things in life, even when there are hard things. Forgive my shortcomings, renew my heart.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

As we prepare for Christmas, let us take a moment to seriously reflect: do we accept Jesus' authority? What about God's other messengers? What do we need to let go of in our lives to hear Jesus' teachings and let his message of love touch and transform our hearts?

Let us pray: Jesus, I humbly ask forgiveness of the times I failed to listen and now turn to you with my whole heart.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

If looking for the Lord is the theme of Advent, today's Scripture reminds us of what type of looking we should be doing. We are hopeful, willing to give it a try, trusting that our Lord will make his presence known. What light will come of this dark season for us?

Let us pray: God, you write straight with crooked lines! Help me to see your true path as I walk through life. Fix my eyes on your loving mercy. I know you forgive my sins; give me the grace to fully accept that forgiveness, to live with joy and peace.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Let us pray to recognize how God is also calling each one of us to welcome Jesus into our own lives.

Are we ready to respond as quickly as Mary? “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Let us pray: Loving God, you came into this world to share your love with everyone. How are you calling me to respond to that love and share it with others as well?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

In Pope Francis’ letter about love in the family, *Amoris Laetitia*, he writes, “The family is thus the place where parents become their children’s first teachers in the faith.” Is our family the foundation that helps us respond to God’s love?

Let us pray: Together with my family, let us pray through the intercession of Mary and Joseph that we may hear the will of God in our lives.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

What are we waiting for in our lives? Have we asked God in prayer? Have we given up hope because we did not receive the answer we wanted? Do we still trust that anything is possible with God?

Let us pray: I do believe, Lord, help my unbelief!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

My plan or God’s plan? God still needs us to respond with a “yes,” like Mary, to carry out his plan in our world today. God speaks to each one of us in the ordinary events of our lives and invites us to work together with him in bringing Jesus to others.

Let us pray: Lord, let me know and accept your plan in my life. Guide me as I discern where you are calling me.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

When Mary and Joseph name their child Jesus *Emmanuel*, they are seeing a deep meaning. Their son is a fulfillment of prophecy, and his incarnation is both a sign and a sacrament. As his name promises, God is with us.

Let us pray: Jesus, Emmanuel, open my heart wider and wider as we approach Christmas, the feast of your Incarnation. You are with me. Help me today to see you in the face of everyone I meet.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Mary was aware of the great work God had done on her behalf and on behalf of her people. This awareness gave her the ability to surrender herself entirely to God.

Let us pray: My God, this Christmas, help me to be aware of the great work you have already done in me, and help me respond appropriately.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

The prophets of the Old Testament were tasked to bring the people to God. They sought to prepare the Jewish people to welcome their Savior. Bringing people to know the Lord Jesus better sounds like a great end-of-Advent challenge.

Let us pray: Lord, you have blessed me and called me to build your kingdom. Show me ways to achieve this calling.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Let us all sing with the angels and saints: Jesus has

come. Jesus' love calls me to love more freely. I can love and serve others.

Let us pray: Jesus, give us a heart that wants to know how to live as people of the heart. Help us to be gentle with each other this Christmas season.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

The Savior comes to us in the quiet. At his birth, his armies and fans are a few poor shepherds. They were the first to hear the Good News and share it with everyone they saw. The first evangelizers. It's good news for the outcasts, the poor, and us. Through Jesus, we know healing, love, and forgiveness. Jesus brings possibilities to our lives. We are free in Christ.

Let us pray: Help us to love as you have loved us.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

The day after Christmas, we hear in Scripture the cost of the disciples who follow the child Jesus. There will be hatred for the followers of Jesus, but in the end victory is salvation.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you have always been there for me; I pray I will always be there for you.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Who supports us? Do we support others? In our faith journeys, we are called to support our brothers and sisters. How can we be that true friend who helps lead others to the kingdom?

Let us pray: Lord, you have blessed me with many friends. Help me to be that friend who is there in good as well as bad times.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. Imitating Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is one tough act to follow! Mother Teresa advised: “What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.”

Let us pray: Lord, thank you for the family for which I am part. Help me to love them as I should—and to open my heart to receive their love for me.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

If we want to live in the light, we need to recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. We all have needs, and, as a human family sharing the planet, we can help each other have those needs met. The ability and willingness to negotiate in love will keep us all out of the darkness.

Let us pray: Lord help me overcome my selfishness, my biases or judgments of others, and anything that blinds me to seeing every person as part of my family. Forgive me from my sins and lead me to the light.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

St. John’s letter challenges us to put first things first. I think our tendency is to try to love both our Father and the things of the world, placing them on the same level. When that happens, our connection with God is no longer at the center of our lives.

Let us pray: O God, thank you for loving me. I do want to love you above all things. I’m sorry that I let “things” become more important sometimes and I lose you as my center. Forgive me, and help me.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

The one who made our Milky Way galaxy with its 100 billion stars and hundreds of billions of other galaxies became a human in a tiny country on planet Earth. And he did it for our sake, not his own. New Year's Eve is a good time to determine how we are going to respond.

Let us pray: Jesus, thank you for becoming like us. You have shown us how to live as humans. Now, please show me what you want from me personally.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

God loves us, but often we forget and trust in ourselves, like the Israelites did. But when they accepted God's love and care, they were able to obey and entrust themselves to God and receive his blessings.

Let us pray: O God, I do believe that you love me. Thank you for loving me, and help me to live today as someone aware of being loved by you.

These reflections were written by
Glenmary priests, Brothers, and
lay coworkers.

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