

Welcome to your Advent companion booklet. A quick overview of how this resource works:

Each day, there will be a quote, scripture passage, reflection questions, or a meditation to aid you in your journey through Advent.

Each week has a different theme that will inform the content - the first week is hope, the second is humility, the third, peace, and the fourth is glory.

The content of each day along with some bonus material will be available on the Husker Catholic app. In addition, Fr. Sasse's Sunday homilies will be tailored to fit the theme of the week no matter which saint you chose. These will also be posted on the app in the media section.

If you don't already have the app downloaded, simply search for the Husker Catholic app in the app store and download it. On it you'll find lots of great resources in addition to this booklet.

Please take a minute as well to let us know which saint you chose by filling out the quick form found on the app!

Please know of our prayers for you this Advent. He promises to make all things new and we hope that you experience the glory of the Word becoming flesh as this new year begins.

**in hope,
the Newman Center staff and ministry team**

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There is a candle in my soul which keeps vigil for you.
So easily, though, the hope which it constitutes falters into
pure ache. I reach, grasp, open wide the mouth of my being
to try to drink down the emptiness inside. It seems
what I long for I cannot find on my own; where are you?
I fear this flickering flame will extinguish soon.
Then in the dark night a voice whispers: "Peace."
I see a father smile, a mother weep,
I hear angels pull heaven down for you and sing,
for in your humility is glory and in your glory is grace.
I see small hands and small feet reach out toward me
in desire and delight, I see incarnadine cheeks
blush as your gaze floods with brightness my whole being.
There is a candle you lit in my soul with which I keep vigil
and wait, and wait with great hope, for hope is
hope in Love which has a face.

-ANONYMOUS

INTRODUCTION

But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. **Luke 2:19**

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. **Luke 2:51**

As I reflected on how to walk through Advent with Mary and asked her what she desired that to look like, I was drawn to her beautiful motherly love and her deep generosity. So often in Scripture, we are told that Mary pondered all these things in her heart - this Advent I believe that she wants to invite you to walk with her and Joseph on the path to Bethlehem and share with you the treasures hidden within her heart. Let her share the stories of this time with you: the Annunciation, going to visit Elizabeth, the ordinary moments of daily life with Joseph, and, perhaps most beautifully, the birth of her son, God become man.

I invite you each day to begin your time in prayer by quieting your heart and looking for Mary on that dusty road to Bethlehem. Upon finding her, allow your prayer to be prompted by the quotes or Scripture passages provided or simply talk to her about what is on your heart. She wants to journey with you - not only this Advent but the rest of your life and this season is the perfect place to begin that journey.

Loving mother of the Redeemer,
Gate of Heaven, Star of the Sea,
Assist your people who have fallen
Yet strive to rise again.

To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
Yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
Have pity on us poor sinners.