



The
Lord
Is Coming!

Praying through Advent
with **Pope Francis**

Introduction

Pope Francis reminds us that “Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will not only visit us all on Christmas, but also, will visit each one of us in our own heart. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him! Do not forget: the Lord comes, and if you feel a longing to improve, to be better, it is the Lord knocking at your door. This Christmas, the Lord is coming.”

As the four weeks of the Advent season proceed toward Christmas, we experience more and more that the risen Christ is drawing near to us in our hearts and in all the circumstances of our lives. And this growing awareness of his presence then begins to change everything for us, especially by arousing in us a growing sense of hope, a new feeling of joy and a greater desire to create peace by imitating Jesus’ example of mercy and loving service to others.

So as we ponder and pray over these Advent themes, let us use the words of Pope Francis, along with a suggested verse from Scripture, as our daily focus and guide to prepare our hearts to celebrate more fully God’s wonderful Christmas surprise of not only coming to dwell with us, but more astonishingly of becoming fully human as we are in Jesus, the human embodiment of all that God is for us.

—Steve Mueller, Editor

Jesus Is Coming!

First Sunday of Advent — Matthew 3:11

JESUS, how many times have you come into my life, how many times have you sent me an angel, and how many times did I not notice because I was so immersed in my own thoughts, in my own affairs and even, in these days, in my Christmas preparations. This Advent help me to notice you when you come and knock at the door of my heart.

Jesus Wants to Enter Your Heart

Monday, Week 1 — Revelation 3:20

JESUS, I know that when I feel in my heart that I would like to be a better person and when I regret the evil that I have done, that that is you knocking. Help me to be better, to be closer to others, to God. I know that this longing to be better, is you knocking: don't pass me by.

Discover Where Jesus Is Present

Tuesday, Week 1 — Luke 12:40

JESUS, in this time of Advent waiting, in expectation of the your coming, help me to make this time of expectation a time of witness and perseverance by discerning where you are present, and where the evil spirit and “false saviors” are attempting to replace you by attracting hearts and minds to themselves and away from you.

Be a Comforter

Wednesday, Week 1 — Acts 1:8

JESUS, help me to be a witness to the mercy and tenderness of God, who spurs the resigned, enlivens the disheartened, ignites the fire of hope. Help me to be a messenger of God's comfort to those who are burdened by suffering, injustice and tyranny; to those who are slaves to money, to power, to success, to worldliness.



Proclaim Jesus to Others

Thursday, Week 1 — Luke 4:18

JESUS, you gently open your heart to me and so open my heart to your love. Help me to cultivate this experience of your mercy, peace and hope during this Advent by proclaiming the Good News to the poor and performing works of mercy as I await your birth at Christmas. May I imitate you, who gave everything, who gave yourself expecting nothing in return.