

Intercessions for Life

NOVEMBER 2004

November 7th THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who have been wounded by abortion,
and especially for women who seek peace and healing:
that God's grace might restore and strengthen them;
We pray to the Lord:

November 14th THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who have reached the winter of their lives,
That we might cherish their wisdom,
And grow in our love for the gift of their presence;
We pray to the Lord:

November 21st OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

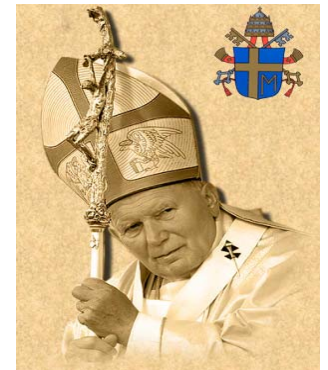
For all newly elected leaders of our government:
That they might grow in respect of the sovereignty of God,
And work to protect the rights of even the weakest of our citizens;
We pray to the Lord:

November 28th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That we might be ever thankful for the gift of life,
And seek to grow in our respect
For the dignity of every human being
From conception to natural death;
We pray to the Lord:

“From this grotto I issue a special call to *women*. Appearing here, Mary entrusted her message to a *young girl*, as if to emphasize *the special mission of women* in our own time, tempted as it is by materialism and secularism: to be in today's society a *witness of those essential values* which are seen only with the eyes of the heart. To you, women, falls the task of being *sentinels of the Invisible!* I appeal urgently to all of you, dear brother and sisters, to do everything in your power to ensure that life, each and every life, will be respected from conception to its natural end. Life is a sacred gift, and no one can presume to be its master.”

Pope John Paul II, Homily at the Lourdes Grotto, August 15, 2004



“Advent is a short season, yet it covers a long distance. It is the road of a soul from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It seems such a short distance as we are accustomed to thinking of distances. Yet it is a road into infinity, into eternity. It has a beginning, but no end. In truth, Advent is *the road of the spiritual life* which all of us must start if we do not want to miss the way.”

Catherine Doherty, “The Meaning of Advent,”
Donkey Bells

“God created man in his own image and likeness: calling him into existence through love, he called him at the same time for love” (Familiaris Consortio, 11). These essential relationships are based on God’s love, and act as a point of reference for all human activity.”

Ad Limina Address of John Paul II to the Bishops of San Antonio and Oklahoma City, May 22, 2004

“Risks to women undergoing IVF procedures can be grouped into several categories: serious actions and side effects of fertility drugs; ectopic pregnancy; higher rates of pregnancy complications from carrying multiple fetuses, e.g., hemorrhage, hypertension, caesarean birth; and emotional and psychological problems due to high failure rates per attempt, high miscarriage rates and “selective reduction” of “excess” fetuses. Additionally, the risk for having a baby with birth defects is higher when children are conceived through assisted reproductive technologies.”

Drs. Marie Anderson and John Bruchalski, “Assisted Reproductive Technologies Are Anti-Woman,” 2004 Respect Life Program

“In the last 30 years, we Catholics, along with many in our society of other faiths and of no faith, have felt obliged to raise a prophetic voice reminding our society that the “the least” of our brothers and sisters include those who have been denied the first and most fundamental right of conception, when human life begins, to that of natural death, is a being endowed with unique rights by God himself. As with the poor, the immigrant, the sick or the prisoner, having no voice does not mean that the unborn have no place among us, no right to be defended. We are all obliged to defend those rights.”

Bishop Wilton Gregory, President of the USCCB to Congressional Black Caucus, Sept. 10, 2004

“As a matter of faith, The Catholic church is concerned for the good of every human person and teaches that every person’s dignity is God-given and inalienable. Sadly, I can tell you from personal experience that not every Catholic lives up to our teaching on the dignity of each person. That is one of the great challenges that we Bishops face on a daily basis: when our own people – or even we ourselves – contradict or do not live up to what we profess, thus causing confusion and cynicism about the faith that should be a mark of our character in everything we do.

But I can witness that, whatever the failings of individual Catholics, Catholic teaching embodies the highest values to which society must aspire if it is to be fully human.”

Bishop Wilton Gregory, President of the USCCB To Congressional Black Caucus, Sept. 10, 2004

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OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Suggested Intercessions for the Month of November

November 7 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who live a vocation to matrimony and for those who live a celibate vocation, that by their way of life they give witness to Christ's love, we pray to the Lord.

November 14 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

That today's youth may show generosity to Jesus' call and make wise decisions in choosing their vocation in life, we pray to the Lord.

November 21 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

That the preaching of the Word, the offering of the Sacrifice of the Mass and administration of the sacraments will attract new servant-leaders for the Church, we pray to the Lord.

November 28 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all seminarians, especially those of our diocese, as they prepare for a lifetime of service in the Church, we pray to the LORD.

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for November / December

November 7, 2004 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's second reading, St. Paul prays that the Thessalonians may be strengthened "in every good deed and word." May we, too, be strengthened and empowered to use our time and talents for the good of others.

November 21, 2004 (Christ the King)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of **my** life?

December 5, 2004 (2nd Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

December 19, 2004 (4th Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

November 14, 2004 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the Gospel ends with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

November 28, 2004 (1st Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says today's Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.

December 12, 2004 (3rd Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

December 26, 2004 (Holy Family)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and let to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!

DIOCESAN MAILINGS AND COLLECTION DATES – 2005

	<u>Preparation</u>	<u>Info sent to parishes</u>	<u>To be read in parishes</u>	<u>Collection</u>
VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK January 9-14	Fr. Leo Wehrlin	December, 2004	January 9	(none)
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18-25	Nancy Yuhasz	September, 2004	January 16	(none)
CATHOLIC EXPONENT CAMPAIGN	Lou Jacquet	January	February	(none)
THE CHURCH OVERSEAS		January 24	February 13	February 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Relief Services Collection* • Aid to Eastern Europe • Holy Father/Peter's Pence • Latin America 	Brian Corbin Nancy Yuhasz Bro. T.A. Dolan Bro. T.A. Dolan			
RICE BOWL	Brian Corbin			March 24
HOLY LAND	Nancy Yuhasz	March 4	March 20	March 25
THE CHURCH AT HOME		May 13	May 29	June 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign for Human Development • Catholic Communications • Catholic University/Newman Apostolate 	Brian Corbin Nancy Yuhasz Nancy Yuhasz			
CATECHETICAL SUNDAY	Barbara Walko	September 5	September 18	(none)
RESPECT LIFE MONTH	Melinda Knight	September	October	(none)
STEWARDSHIP	Pat Palombo	August	September 25	September 25
MISSION SUNDAY	Bro. T.A. Dolan	September	October 16	October 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propagation of the Faith • Home Mission 				
RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS	Sr. Joyce Candidi	October	November 20	November 27

* new name – previously Bishops' Overseas Appeal

Advent



Prepare the way of the Lord

**Resources for
Discussion and Reflection**
Cycle A

Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission

Dear Colleague in Ministry,

As part of the implementation of the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant, the action plan suggests that congregations which already collaborate in a geographic area consider extending their relationship into a framework of prayer and dialogue within the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Enclosed are resources for the study and discussion of the Advent Readings, Cycle A. As you plan parish faith formation activities for the season of Advent, and in the spirit of the Covenant, you are encouraged to consider inviting a neighboring congregation to form a joint study group to reflect on the Advent readings. It is the commission's hope that these materials will be helpful both on your parish Advent journey, and in fostering the goals of prayer, study, and action of the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant. We would like to thank Commission members, Mrs. Geri Jacquet of St. Brendan Parish in Youngstown, Pastor Frank Podolinski of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, New Springfield, and Mr. Ken Welch of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Canfield, for preparing these resources.

Please feel free to contact us if the Commission can be of assistance. Other materials related to the implementation of the Covenant can be found at www.lccovenant.org. Materials for the Lenten season are currently being prepared and will be sent to parishes in January.

In our shared hope and prayer for Christian unity,

The Co-conveners of the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission

Sister M. Brendon Zajac, SND Executive Director Department of Pastoral and Educational Services, Diocese of Youngstown	Rev. Constance Mentzer Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Canfield
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WEEKDAY ADVENT GOSPELS

First Week of Advent

Monday	Matthew 8:5-11
Tuesday	Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday	Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday	Matthew 7:21:21,24-27
Friday	Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday	Matthew 9:35 – 10:1,6-8

Second Week of Advent

Monday	Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday	Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday	Matthew 11:28-30 (Lk1:26-38)
Thursday	Matthew 11:11-15
Friday	Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday	Matthew 17:10-13

Third Week of Advent

Monday	Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday	Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday	Luke 7:18-23
Thursday	Luke 7:24-30
Friday	Matthew 1:1-17
Saturday	Matthew 1:18-25

Fourth Week of Advent

Monday	Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	Luke 1:39-45
Wednesday	Luke 1:46-56
Thursday	Luke 1:57-66
Friday	Luke 1:67-79
Saturday	Christmas

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CYCLE A

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-17
Matthew 1:18-24

In our gospel reading today we are told of the great news of Salvation. God will become visible, physical, Emmanuel in the womb of a Virgin as a concrete sign of God's love for us. It is not through Mary's actions that God accomplishes his incarnation; it is through his surrender and cooperation.

The Church is the continuation of Jesus' visible human presence and action in the world. Through God's word and sacraments, God continues to affect salvation on his people. Faith leads to cooperation and cooperation to deeper faith.

1. How do I, like Mary, make God visible in my family and my work place?
2. How does my faith allow me to cooperate with God's grace in my life at this time?

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cycle A

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

In today's gospel Jesus reminds us "Be sure of this: if the owner of the house knew when the thief was coming he would keep a watchful eye and not allow his house to be broken into. You must be prepared in the same way. The Son of Man is coming at a time you least expect."

One characteristic of human life is that we have the ability to think – especially of life and death. In death, all time as we know it stops. So therefore time is sonorous with life. What we give our time to we are giving our life to.

1. Take a few minutes to think about how you use your time. Is most of your time being spent on what you value?

As followers of Christ the real focus of our time is awaiting Jesus' return in glory. Our chief priority is life in Christ and to know God's ways. Many times without thinking, we spend our life on many immediate pursuits and distractions.

By reordering our priorities and changing some of our habits, we can find ourselves on God's track "to be the light of Christ, to preserve the light of Christ and provide the light of Christ to the world." Then what we are already doing can be the very way God works in us.

2. What normal earthly task are you doing that can be transformed by just bringing God into it?

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cycle A

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Isaiah today presents us with the vision of God's action expressed in human acts. In a paradise vision of peace and justice where the vulnerable child can lead the lion and leopard, we see the reality of God's Kingdom. In the stump of our humanity with our human actions God will send forth new shoots.

Just like the fruit of Mary's womb, the Holy Spirit can act within us, acting through our human actions, making them signs of visible grace. Jesus incarnated means that we move past good human intentions and actions into vessels of God's power. To do this we must become humble, yielding servants open to receiving Christ in teaching, lifestyle and loving actions.

1. If it's not about you and it's not about human action, but about God's action, what in your thinking and your actions would have to change for God to take over?

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CYCLE A

Isaiah 30:1-6
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

We are reminded in the letter of James to be patient and wait on the Lord. The farmer plants the seed and cares for the plants but must be patient and hopeful for the harvest. James tells us we too must be patient and steady our hearts for the Lord's coming.

We are often asked in our lives not to judge God or the Church by what is not happening. We are not to set ourselves up as judges to determine what God should be accomplishing but rather to trust that God will accomplish all things in his time.

1. What are areas in my Church where I have been frustrated that nothing is happening?
2. How is ministry taking place and God's power working in my Church?

In our gospel, John the Baptist finds himself asking similar questions about God's plan and the messiah—Jesus wants us to believe because we freely choose to recognize him as Savior and God. He makes God's plan visible in his actions “the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf are given hearing.” When we recognize this truth of Jesus as Savior and God, like John, our vision because clearer, our pathway open and the purpose of mission is defined. As a consequence of our belief in Jesus, our faith and hope can be made active in love.

3. We can choose to do good things on our own or God's thing which flows out of an understanding and response to Jesus. In your local congregation and in your personal faith life are the actions and works of ministry flowing from purely human motives or God's direction?