

# Come, Lord Jesus!

Reflections for the  
Season of Advent

In the words of

## The saints



“Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin’s womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in him.”

*Saint Clare of Assisi*

Take a moment to

**1** look at the Nativity scene from each statue’s perspective. How did Mary feel? Joseph? The Shepherds?

Call an old friend or a

**2** relative just to take a moment to chat. Let them know how thankful you are for them.

Go to Confession! There

**3** are only a few hours left. Take some time to enter Christmas free from sin and embraced with God’s mercy and love

Huddled in their trenches, freezing, starving, dirty, and exhausted. This is not how anyone imagined spending Christmas Eve, yet this is precisely how these soldiers were doomed to spend the night. Fear kept their heads down

below the dirt berms at the top of the trenches. The sounds of explosions and occasional shots fired from the enemy trenches kept the soldiers constantly on edge. So, on the half-frozen muddy ground, they sat praying only for frostbite not to come as they shivered in sorrow. Then, slowly, a different sound broke through the air; someone was singing.

*What could they possibly have to sing about? The sound of the carol began to spread through the soldiers*

in the trench, and a feeling of warmth began to fill their hearts. For a moment, they were no longer in the Hell of the trench but taken somewhere else.

As the light of dawn began to break through the forest, the faint shapes of the enemy could be seen off in the distance. Fear ran through the soldiers as they though the carols had been a trick. But, seeing the enemy unarmed, the soldiers slowly emerged from their frozen holes and began to walk towards the enemy. “Frohliche Weihnachten,” said an enemy soldier with his hand extended? The soldier extended his hand to shake the hand of the enemy soldier not knowing what the man had said. Sensing the confusion, the enemy soldier tried to say the phrase in

broken English, “Merry Christmas” he said in a thick German accent.

In 1914, across many *no-man’s lands*, events similar to this happened between British and German soldiers. Bitter enemies found common ground to celebrate Christmas. They shared food and drink, exchanged presents or needed supplies, and sang carols together. A field that had once rung with the sounds of screaming, bullets, and bombs, now was filled with laughter and song. This peace was short-lived, but the memories of it have never faded.

The two men stood there, enemies on the battlefield, but sharing in this temporary peace brought on by Christmas. This is the peace brought to the world by the birth of Christ.

## Advent Prayer

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

# Come, Lord Jesus!



There is a moment – maybe even a series of moments – just before every dramatic event – when there is simply quiet calm. It’s a certain silence that anticipates the greatness of an oncoming moment. Before Christmas, when the offices shut down and the computers are silenced for a few days, we get a taste of the Peace that must have surrounded Bethlehem on the afternoon of that first Christmas Eve: the gentle bleating of the sheep, the whispering breeze through olive leaves, the reassuring presence of St. Joseph to Mary as they settled into a stable for rest. Peace is more than just the absence of conflict; it is a gift of a moment that assures us that the oncoming happenings are themselves merely moments. At Christmas, this Peace tells us that something remarkable is taking place. No more is there need to be afraid. The choirs of angels are preparing their trumpets and harps for their new song: “God and sinners, reconciled!” God’s gift to us this Christmas is His Peace – that the world cannot give – that allows us to sleep in heavenly Peace, with Jesus.

*Fr. Austin*

## A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH ADVENT

Date	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Verse	<b>Psalm 80</b>	<b>Psalm 89</b>	<b>Isaiah 62:1-5</b>	<b>Psalm 118</b>	<b>1 John 1:1-4</b>	<b>Matthew 2:13-18</b>	<b>Psalm 96</b>

### *Pastoral Council Perspective*

Submitted by Leonard Hartka: Pastoral Council member and Corporator

About 2,000 Decembers ago, Jesus, Son of Man, Son of God, and the Prince of Peace, came into the world; and for the first time ever, true peace was possible because salvation was now possible. This peace is no superficial, worldly, freedom from conflict and difficulties, but a deep, abiding inner peace that comes from union with, and confidence in, God.

Christians can have Christ’s true, inner, peace because of these truths:

**God loves us** – no exceptions. God exists, is in control, wants us with him in heaven, and gives us what we need (sacraments, the church, graces, the bible, etc.) to follow his path.

**We repent, God forgives** – no exceptions. Christ was born in order to die for our sins. What great, unshakable Peace comes when our sins are erased.

**God’s in his heaven all is right with the world** – all earthly pain and suffering is not an obstacle to true inner peace because we believe there is a reason; and after 10,000 years when we think of them from heaven, we will see how insignificant they were.

If we live according to these truths, we will have peace; but since we are then in closer union with God, we will do even more to please him, and thus attain more peace. A truly virtuous Cycle of Peace.