

Advent Prayers

St. Andrew Advent Prayer

(Said daily beginning on St. Andrew's Feast Day through the Vigil of Christmas.)

Hail and blessed be the hour and the moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Blessed Virgin Mary at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my petitions. Through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Daily Advent Antiphons

(Said daily beginning the 1st Lord's Day of Advent through the Vigil of Christmas. Begin with "Daily Prayer" and then recite the prayer for the appropriate week.)

Daily Prayer

Drop down dew from above, ye heavens, and let the clouds rain the Just One. Let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior. (Isa. 45:8)

First Week

Rejoice, O daughter of Sion, and be jubilantly glad, O daughter of Israel. Behold, thy Lord comes and in his day a great light shall arise. The mountains shall drop down sweetness and the hills shall flow with milk and honey, for the Great Prophet shall come and he shall renew Jerusalem.

Antiphon: Come, let us adore Our Lord and King who is about to come to us!

Behold, thy God comes, the Man of the house of David, to sit upon the throne. And you shall see and your heart shall rejoice. **(Antiphon)**

Second Week

Behold, the Lord our protector comes, the Holy One of Israel, having on his head the regal crown. And he shall rule from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. **(Antiphon)**

Behold, the Lord comes and he will not lie. Should he tarry, await him, for he shall assuredly come and shall not delay. **(Antiphon)**

Third Week

The Lord shall come down as rain upon the fleece, and in his days shall justice spring up and abundance of peace. And all kings of the earth shall adore him, all nations shall serve him. **(Antiphon)**

A Child is born to us, and a Son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, God the Mighty, the Father of the World to Come, the Prince of Peace. **(Antiphon)**

Fourth Week

And thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, art a little one among the thousands of Juda. Out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel. And his going forth is from the beginning from the days of eternity. **(Antiphon)**

Our forerunner, Jesus, the Lamb undefiled, has entered the Holy of holies for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech. He is the King of justice, having neither beginning of days nor end of life. **(Antiphon)**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Sung daily beginning 12/17)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, / And ransom captive Israel, / That mourns in lonely exile here / Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The "O" Antiphons

(Said daily during Vespers, beginning the 17th day of the 12th month. If you do not pray Vespers, then pray the antiphons with the prayer before your meal.)

12/17: O Wisdom, who didst come out of the mouth of the most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

12/18: O Adonai and leader of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and didst give unto him the law on Sinai: Come and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

12/19: O Root of Jesse, who dost stand for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication: Come to deliver us, and tarry not.

12/20: O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel, who dost open and no man doth shut, who dost shut and no man doth open: Come and bring forth from his prisonhouse the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

12/21: O Dawn of the East, brightness of the light eternal and Sun of Justice: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

12/22: O King of the Gentiles and the desired of them, thou cornerstone that dost make both one: Come and deliver man, whom thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

12/23: O Emmanuel, our King and lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: Come to save us, O Lord our God.

Advent Resolutions Prayer

(This prayer can be said on the Lord's Day each week during Advent.)

O Infant Savior, the prophets of old longed for thy coming into their world, we long for thy return to our modern world – another coming of thyself and thy laws into our pagan times. Only then will we breathe in a Christian atmosphere in which joy replaces sorrow, in which love casts out darkness.

O Mary, [our mother,] be our model during this holy season. Christ was alive within thee during the first Advent; we want him to be alive within us more than ever during this Advent. May we not merely possess our precious Catholic faith – rather, may it take complete possession of us so that wherever we go, whatever we do or say, it will be the Christ Child that inspires us.

We resolve to make our Christmas a holy day with Christ instead of a holiday without him. We resolve to observe Christmas as the birthday of Christ and not as a day to give and receive merchandise. And we resolve to help, if possible, at least one poor family in honor of the Holy Family of Bethlehem. Finally, we promise every day to give glory to God in the highest and to work and pray for peace on earth among men of good will. Amen.