

Women's Advent by Candlelight

*Rejoice!*

Using St. Joseph as our model to meditate on the season of Advent



## A SPIRITUAL ENTRANCE INTO THE ADVENT SEASON

*Welcome to the St. Max Women's Advent by Candlelight Retreat. We are blessed to have you with us for this event. We hope to provide you with well-deserved refreshment, joyful fellowship and life-giving prayer.*

*Our video presenters for this event are the consecrated women from Regnum Christi Ohio Valley. Video will also be used to lead us in our singing and is led by members of the St. Max music ministry.*

*The guided meditations you will hear this evening were inspired by the year of St. Joseph that our Church is bringing to a close. The theme is 'Nurturing'; nurturing ourselves, so that we can offer nurturing to others. Our presenters have chosen four virtues of St. Joseph to help us focus on this theme.*

*We will use the four candles on our Advent wreath to move through this retreat. As we sing our opening song, the first candle on the wreath will be lit.*



*The music will be followed by the first presentation with a discussion to follow. Music will move us to the second candle lighting, and we will repeat this sequence.*

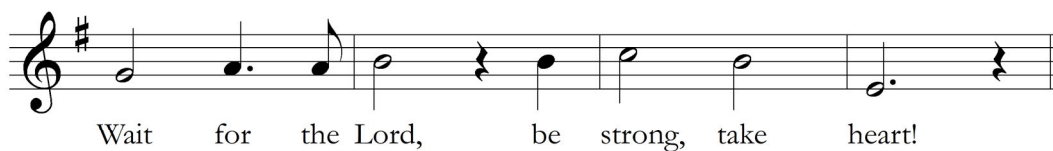
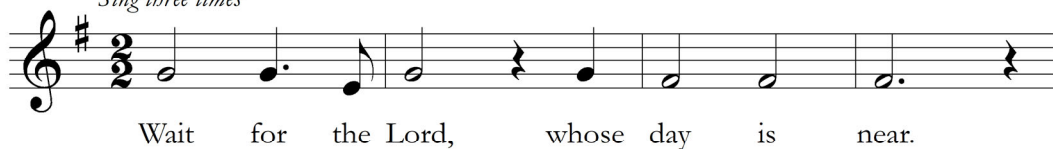
*You will each receive a 'Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Joseph' journal that can be used to continue your Advent journey. 'Experience the first Advent with Joseph and Mary, as they await the birth of their son, the Savior of the world. Together with the guided meditation videos (found at [AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com)), this journal calls you daily to see through Joseph's eyes, feel what is in Joseph's heart, and read the Scripture that Joseph read, so you can fully prepare to welcome Jesus into your heart this Christmas.'*

*Together with over 150 women in our parish, let us pray for each other and begin our Advent journey.*

## WAIT FOR THE LORD

*Play the “Wait for the Lord” hymn video now.*

*Sing three times*



Text: Isaiah 40; Philippians 4, Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Taizé Community, 1984.

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994. © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.



THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE  
WAITING FOR THE LORD



*Play the first recorded video now.*

**THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ACTIVITY**  
**JOURNAL PAGE**





# *Reflection Questions*

*With others at your table, reflect and discuss one or more of the questions below:*

- 1. How do I resonate with this idea of waiting for the Lord in my ordinary life?*
- 2. In what ways do I feel right with God at this moment in my life? Take some time to identify the graces that are helping make this possible and to thank Him.*
- 3. Are there areas of my life where I would like to “prepare the way of the Lord” and “make straight his paths” for my soul this Advent? (Matthew 3:3, Isaiah 40:3) Identify some concrete actions or attitudes you would like to adopt in this first week of Advent. Ask St. Joseph to help you remember these resolution(s).*

# O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

## Verses

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And  
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who  
 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who

ran - som cap - tive Is - - ra - el, That  
 or - ders all things might - i - ly; To  
 to your tribes on Si - nai's height In

mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un -  
 us the path of know - ledge show, And  
 an - cient times didst give the law, In

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us in her ways to go.  
 cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.

## Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall  
 come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el!

Text: Latin 9th cent.; trans. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866.

Tune: VENI, VENI EMMANUEL, LM; Chant, Mode 1, 15th cent. French.



THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE  
NEVER ALONE:  
WITH MARY AND JOSEPH



*Play the second recorded video now.*

**THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE ACTIVITY**  
**JOURNAL PAGE**

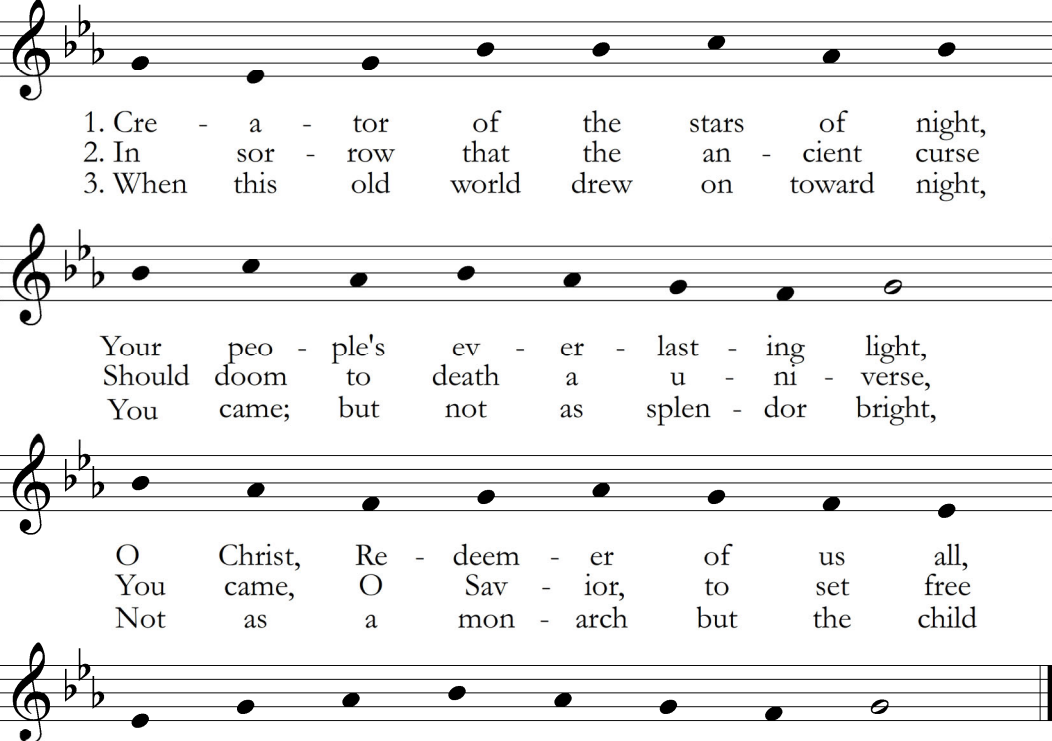


# Reflection Questions

*Walk and talk with Joseph and Mary: Take an imaginary walk with Joseph and Mary as they travel to Bethlehem, and, as you walk along, ponder the reflection questions below:*

- 1. What journeys in your life mirror the moments when you had to let God take over and guide someone you loved in your life? What does it feel like to trust more fully in God when a hard circumstance arises in family life? Is there one now that you can entrust to God?*
- 2. How did Joseph accompany Mary in daily life? What do you imagine their friendship and support for each other would be like? Is there someone God is calling you to offer support to in your family? Can you name that person and ask the Father to be with them and watch over them?*
- 3. Mary loved Joseph with a true friendship. How can I allow someone to love me in my life and accompany me? Is there someone I can turn to in a time of trial? If I can't think of someone, can I ask God to send someone to support me?*

# CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
 2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
 3. When this old world drew on toward night,

Your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
 Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
 You came; but not as splen - dor bright,

O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 You came, O Sav - ior, to set free  
 Not as a mon - arch but the child

we pray you hear us when we call.  
 Your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.  
 Of Ma - ry, blameless moth - er mild. —

Text: LM Latin, 9th cent; tr. fr. The Hymnal 1982 © 1985, The Church Pension Fund.  
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM; Chant Mode IV

THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE  
SON OF MAN



*Play the third recorded video now.*

THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE ACTIVITY  
JOURNAL PAGE





## THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE ACTIVITY

# Reflection Questions

*With others at your table, reflect and discuss one or more of the questions below:*

- 1. My Memory Doors: Take a quiet moment to survey my past experiences of God. Where are those “Bethlehem doors” behind which have occurred the landmark spiritual experiences in my life, memories where God came close, where I felt deeply loved and my faith was strengthened? Jot a few down.*
- 2. The New Doors Opening: Take a moment to knock on those old doors, looking for a place to stay and welcome Jesus into this new moment of life. Are there any memories that have fresh life in them? Memories that cause me to feel more loved, that have a sense of “new life” or that stir something in my heart? Choose one memory, then “rewind and savor” the grace anew.*
- 3. The Unexpected Welcome: Now, think about my current life circumstances. What is going on in my life? What am I feeling? What do I need from God? Is there something hidden in my past experiences with God that I need to “knock at” and welcome anew this moment in my life?*



## O COME DIVINE MESSIAH

### Verses



1. O come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; The
2. O Christ, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom
3. You come in peace and meek - ness And



world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its  
priest and proph - et long fore-told, Come, break the cap-tive's  
low - ly will your cra - dle be; All clothed in hu - man



tri - umph And sad - ness flee a - way.  
fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.  
weak - ness Shall we your God - head see.

### Refrain



Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis-pel the



night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O



come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; the world in si - lence



waits the day when hope shall sing its tri - umph and



sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: Abbe Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; tr. by Sr. Mary of St. Phillip, 1825-1904  
Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE, 78 76 with refrain; trad. French carol, 16th cent.



*Play the fourth recorded video now.*

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*Pray the Memorare to St. Joseph  
Remember, O most chaste spouse of the  
Virgin Mary,  
That never was it known that anyone who  
implored your help  
And sought your intercession was left  
unaided.  
Full of confidence in your power, I fly unto  
you and beg your protection.  
Despise not, O Guardian of the Redeemer,  
my humble supplication,  
But in your bounty, hear and answer me.  
Amen.*

**THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE ACTIVITY**  
**JOURNAL PAGE**



## THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE ACTIVITY

# *Reflection Questions*

*After praying the Memorare to St. Joseph, bring to mind the specific people and life circumstances you would like to entrust to Him.*

- 1. What words or phrases from the prayer stood out to you? Why?*
- 2. How could you invite St. Joseph into your life and home in a deeper way? What could that look like within your own reality?*

## THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS



The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And  
O bright - er than the ris - ing morn When  
The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the  
he, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some  
light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy



east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.  
place of death, De - spite the rage of foes.  
peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: CM; Greek tr. by John Brownlie, 1859-1925 alt.

Tune: MORNING SONG, CM; Wyeth's *Respository of Sacred Music*, 1813.

## RESOURCES

### Available at St. Max Especially for Women

**1% Challenge**—Sign up for the daily email or choose your own Scripture and join hundreds of parishioners who read and reflect on Scripture for 15 minutes or 1% of each day.

**Bible Studies** - weekly groups that meet during the day or evening

**Faith Lessons for Women** weekly group, every Wed. AM

**Family Holy Hour**— Every Thursday from 11:00 AM-Noon, bring your children to come pray for as much or as little of the hour as you like.

**FORMED** online books, movies and more!

**Hearts Afire**—Marian retreats

**Imitation of Christ Virtual Study**— [www.saint-max.org/ImitationofChrist](http://www.saint-max.org/ImitationofChrist)

**Lenten On-site Retreat**—Save the date for the weekend of March 11-13, 2022.

**Light House Catholic CDs** available for purchase from the rack in the Gathering Space. Many are available for free in the library.

**Ladies Fellowship Network**, monthly evening meetings and events

**Mighty Max**—a small group faith formation experience for preschool-aged children and their parents

**Monsignor Whalen Library**

**Rosary groups** — respect life rosary

**Women's Small Groups**—Our small faith groups will equip you to do what Jesus and his first apostles and disciples did... renew the Church through person-to-person ministry. Join us today! Call Rebecca at the parish office for more information, 513-777-4322 x118.

**IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD...  
AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD...  
AND THE WORD WAS GOD! JOHN 1:1**

*We continue our celebration here at St. Max with these following events. We invite you to be with us to celebrate this most holy season!*

**MASSES for the LORD'S DAY**

Saturday – 4:30 PM

Sunday – 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday through Saturday— 8:30 AM

Tuesdays and Thursdays — 6:30 AM

First Fridays— 7:30 PM

The Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all Masses and the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed after all 8:30 AM Masses in the main church.

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

**Individual Confessions:**

Tuesdays – after 6:30AM Mass

Thursdays – after 8:30 AM Mass & at 6:00 PM

Saturdays – after 8:30 AM Mass & at 3:00 PM

Thursday, December 9, Day of Mercy —7:15 AM—8:00 PM  
(a priest will be in the confessional all day)

Tuesday, December 21—5:00 PM– 9:00 PM

**Communal Penance Service:**

Monday, December 13 – 7:00 PM—St. John the Evangelist, West Chester

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open continuously for private prayer in the Presence of Our Lord.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Mondays during Advent - after 8:30 AM Mass until 5:00 PM (with Benediction)

Thursdays - after 8:30 AM Mass until 7:00 PM (6:00 PM Holy Hour, Vespers and Benediction)



**ADVENT OPEN HOUSE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27— 12:00-2:00 PM**

Activities include Advent wreath blessing, church tour, outreach activities - making ornaments and cards to donate, blessed straw, and an Outreach collection of new children's pajamas and socks, and blankets for the elderly.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

*(Holy Day of Obligation)*

6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 7:30 PM\*

On this solemnity, those who wish to make or renew their consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be able to do so after the 8:30 AM and 7:30 PM Masses.

*\*incense used*

**BLESSING OF BABY JESUS**

At the weekend Masses on December 18 & 19, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, all are invited to bring the figure of the Infant Jesus from your home crèche to be blessed.

**DECEMBER 25, 2021 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

*(Holy Day of Obligation)*

Friday, December 24 – 3:00 PM (church and gym), 5:30 PM, 9:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25 – 12:00 Midnight\*, 10:00 AM\* & Noon\*

*Caroling will precede all Masses.*

*Lessons and Carols will begin at 11:30 PM before Midnight Mass*

*\*incense used*

**DECEMBER 26, 2021 – THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Normal Sunday Mass schedule.

**Saturday, JANUARY 1, 2022 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

*(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)*

Friday, December 31 – Vigil Mass – 4:30pm

Eucharistic Holy Hour – 11:00 PM

*(Benediction at Midnight)*

Saturday, January 1 – 8:30 AM

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 9, 2022**

Normal Sunday Mass schedule.

*Incense will be used at the 10:00 AM and Noon Masses.*

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO**

**Presenters from Regnum Christi Ohio Valley**

*Naoise Johnston • Jacquie Lustig  
Rachel Peach • Heidi Seuber*

*Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center  
5440 Moeller Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45212*

*\*If you wish, free-will donations may be sent to the  
address above. Checks should be written to "Consecrated Women Inc."*

**Music Direction**

*Ron Miller*

**Cantor**

*Veronica Murphy*

**Our Table Hostesses**

*Brittany Angilecchia • Susan Anthony • Amy Brunner  
Melissa Doerr • Marlene Doughman • Maribeth Gieseke  
Mary Graf • Susan Guiliano • Louise Karas  
Katie Keenan • Diane Le • Sarah Lewis  
Connie Michael • Kathryn Miller • Nancy Prince  
Joan Stoltz*

**Special Thanks**

*To the staff at St. Max without whose endless energy  
and support this would not have come together.*

*Fr. Jim Riehle • Rebecca Bissonnette • Colleen Dill  
Sarah Merkel • Ron Miller • Holly Moran  
Mary Ella Wielgos*

*The books you received, and others like it, may be found  
at <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/rejoice-advent-meditations-with-joseph>*