

Liturgical Calendar 2023 Watermark Advent

Readings Theme: God is Faithful and Eternal; hold fast to him because nothing is impossible for God

<p>Week of November 26th: Week of Hope</p> <p>#1 Liturgy of the week: Leader: Our Soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, for in his holy Name we put our trust. Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in you. Ps. 33:20-22 Response: <i>I shall always wait in patience, and shall praise you more and more. Ps. 71:14</i></p> <p>#2 Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 (Monday) • 1 Cor. 1:3-9 (Wednesday) • Mark 13:24-37 (Friday) <p>#3-4: See Prayers Below</p>	<p>Week of December 10th: Week of Joy</p> <p>#1 Liturgy of the week: Leader: Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; you have done great things; who is like you, O God? Ps. 71:19 Response: <i>Glory in his holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Ps. 105:3</i></p> <p>#2 Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126 (Monday) • 1 Thess. 5:16-24 (Wednesday) • John 1:6-8,19-28 (Friday) <p>#3-4: See Prayers Below</p>
<p>Week of December 3rd: Week of Peace</p> <p>#1 Liturgy of the week: Leader: Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of his praise to be heard; Who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip. Ps. 66: 7-8 Response: <i>Great Peace have they who love your law; for them there is no stumbling block. Ps. 119:165</i></p> <p>#2 Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 (Monday) • 2 Peter 3:8-15a (Wednesday) • Mark 1:1-8 (Friday) <p>#3-4: See Prayers Below</p>	<p>Week of December 17th: Week of Love</p> <p>#1 Liturgy of the week: Leader: Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness. Ps. 89:1 Response: <i>Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!" Ps. 96:10</i></p> <p>#2 Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Sam.7:1-11,16; Psalm 89:1-4,19-26 (Monday) • Romans 16:25-27 (Wednesday) • Luke 1:26-38 (Friday) <p>#3-4: See Prayers Below</p>

3 Monthly Personal/Group Prayer Focus: Ask the Spirit to open your eyes to all who are waiting; those waiting for homes, those waiting for babies, those waiting for finances, for health and those waiting for a connection that leads to God. *In a group, leader can offer a general prayer and a few moments of silence before closing with Collect Prayer.

#4 Monthly Collect Prayer: Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen. - Henri J.M. Nouwen

Spiritual Discipline of Focus: Waiting and Simplicity

Suggested practices:

- Light a candle in your window to remind you that God is our light and our home and that we are the light of hope in a world that is sometimes dark.
- Take a few moments to wait in the still and quiet each day. Listen for sounds your busy mind may have missed. Do you hear birds, traffic, kids? Ask God for quiet ways to interact with those things that surround you.
- Listen to a Christmas carol that has been meaningful to you. Think about how the music and lyrics connect you to Christ in his earthly coming.
- When in a public space, choose one person to really look at and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how that person is an image of Christ.
- * Family* Talk about what neighbors or people you come across may need a connection of hope to God and his people. Consider making them a Christmas card, cookies or small gift.