Idvent in the home 2016

WEEK ONE

Advent is a time to *Stay Awake*. In the darkness of winter we wait for the light to come – the LIGHT of the world – Jesus Christ. We keep our eyes open to that which has already been given to us and anticipate the one to come – Emanuel.

WEEK TWO

Advent is also a time of *Hope*. We hope for the Lord's presence here on earth and we recall Jesus' birth. God so loved us that He sent his only Son to live among us. This hope is the source of our prayer, of our gratitude, and of our joy.

WEEK THREE

Advent is a time for *Joy*. This joy is rooted in the knowledge that God has loved us so much that he sent a Savior to us, in order that we ourselves might be saved.

WEEK FOUR

Advent is a time of

Announcing the Good News. No matter what our circumstances,

No matter what our circumstances, God has come to earth in the form of a child. That child, Jesus Christ, has the answer to the world's sorrows and despair.

Let us share this Good News.

THE Advent WREATH

The tradition of the lighting of the Advent wreath is a annual ritual which ties families and generations together.

The circular wreath is enhanced with four candles – usually three purple and one rose colored (this one symbolizes that Jesus is very near.) A candle is lit each week in anticipation of Christmas. Lighting the candle(s) in darkness is a powerful experience and delivers the strong message that *Christ is the Light of the World*. You can make up your own prayers each day as you gather around the wreath. You may also choose to use the following prayers, and supplement them with Scripture readings of the day, or have the children act out a story from the Bible.

Make the most of your Advent by:

- singing seasonal songs together as a family
- praying for those we know who are hurting
- sharing the stories of childhood
- remembering a neighbor who lives alone
- taking a ride together and enjoying the many ways people celebrate His coming
- lighting a candle at Church in memory of loved one who has died

Provided by the Cathedral Family Life Committee

WEEK ONE

O God, bless this wreath and be with us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. As we light the candles each day, help us remember to keep our hearts lit with your love. AMEN.

WEEK TWO

O God, fill us with hope. Help us to give hope to those who are less fortunate than we. May each smile and each act of kindness make a difference in our lives and in theirs. Let your love and joy shine through us this day. AMEN.

WEEK THREE

O God, our hearts are filled with joy as we await your coming. The winter solstice will soon be here. Our darkest hours are almost over. We have known the warmth of your presence on earth and we dance for joy as we anticipate your birth. AMEN.

WEEK FOUR

O God, thank you for the people throughout the generations who have passed down to us the story of your birth and the truths of our faith. May we cherish our gift of faith and may our lives be filled with your love, your patience, your kindness and your understanding. AMEN.

AN Advent Prayer

by Henri J. M. Nouwen 🥌

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, seek quiet space 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