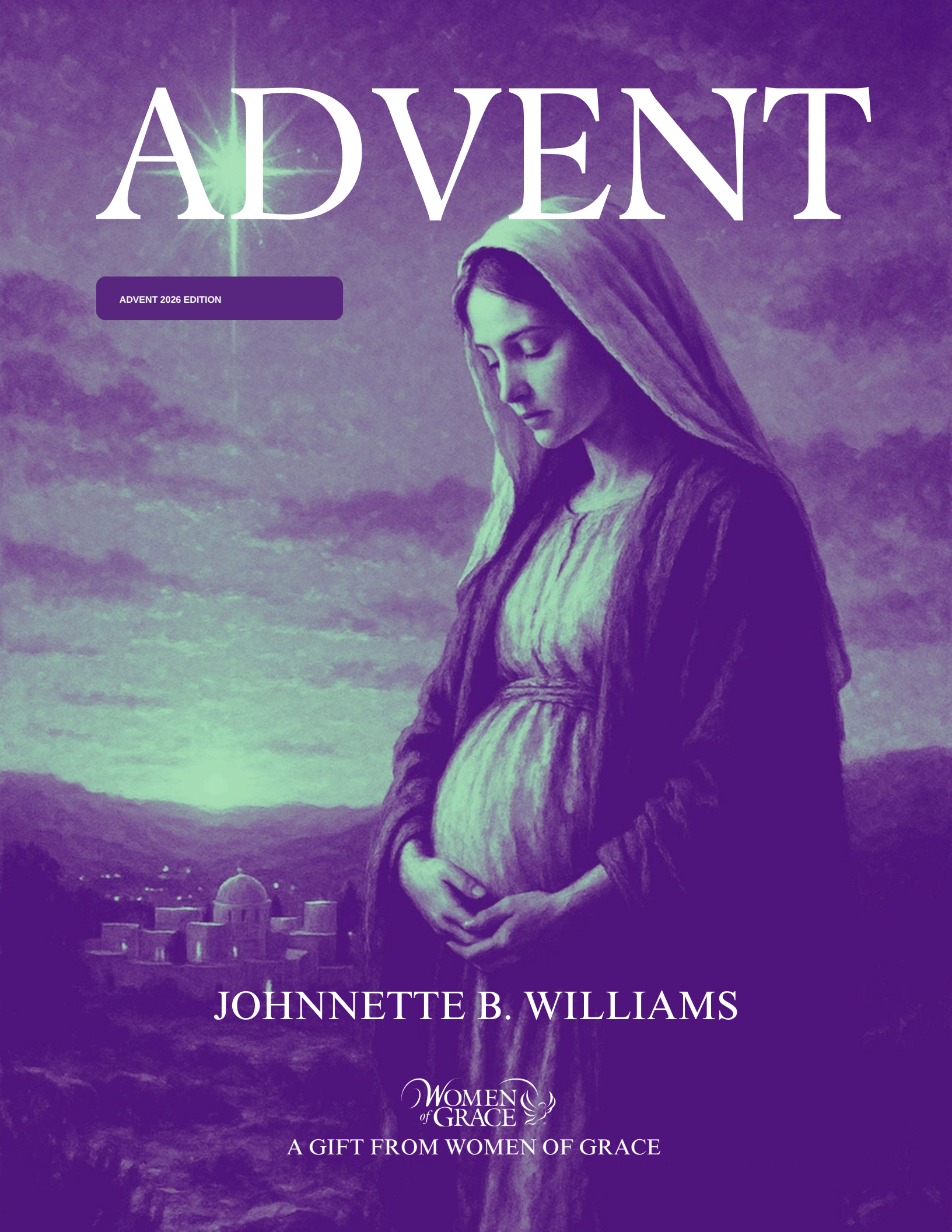
ADVENT

ADVENT 2026 EDITION



JOHNNETTE B. WILLIAMS

WOMEN of GRACE

A GIFT FROM WOMEN OF GRACE

Advent is the start of the liturgical year and, as is the case with new beginnings, we would do well to lay a plan for our preparation. I hope this Advent e-booklet will be a blessing to your family, friends, or in your Women of Grace® study group if you are one of our leaders.

My prayer is that this Advent leads you into a deeper union with the mystery of the Incarnation and the great gift of life it offers us through Jesus, Our Lord. Through Jesus Christ, the Word Made Flesh, we taste the grace of redemption. We are freed from the bondage of sin a nd death. And we experience grace in abundance. How much God loves us!

The words of John 3:16 express this reality so well – *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

Our response to the life-giving love of Jesus Christ is inextricably linked with our call and mission. God has given us life at this moment in time to be a conduit of His love in the world today. This is accomplished in us to the extent that we ourselves are transformed by Christ's love, a transformation that comes about through receptivity, trust, and surrender to the will of God. These are the hallmarks of a "handmaid of the Lord" and they should be the hallmarks of our life as a woman of grace.

Mary, our spiritual mother, is our exemplar and our tutor. By the witness of her life she instructs us in the way we should go. While Luke 1: 26-56 is a study of the three "hallmark" virtues, every passage that references Our Lady gives us insight and inspiration. I suggest that you reference these passages by using your concordance and prayerfully consider each of the ways in which Mary leads us into fuller union with her Son. Her never-failing "yes" to God in all situations, circumstances, trials and joys encourages us to give our "fiat" in the ordinary and not-so-ordinary events of our lives. She has trod the path before us, and her footsteps always lead us to life on high in Christ Jesus.

As this holy season approaches, all of us here at Women of Grace® wish you the peace that surpasses understanding. May gratitude and wonder be your response as the truth of this holy season penetrates your heart, and may your soul open wide to receive the fullness of life that only the Christ Child can bring. Be assured of our thoughts and prayers for you and your intentions.

With Christmas greetings, love, and peace….

Johnnette S. Williams

WOMEN of GRACE®

We thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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YOUR ADVENT PLAN

Prepare your heart for Christ

Prayer, forgiveness, charity, and a personal witness of faith

Set aside ten minutes each day. Keep your Bible and a journal nearby. Begin each week with Johnnette's reflection, then use the questions to guide your prayer and choose one action.

November 29	**Preparation and prayer** Read pages 4-5
December 6	**Reconciliation and forgiveness** Read pages 6-7
December 13	**Charity and love** Read pages 8-9
December 20	**Sharing and caring** Read pages10-11

A simple daily rhythm

Read a short Scripture passage slowly. Notice a word or phrase drawing your attention.

Reflect: Consider how the passage speaks to your life. Use the weekly questions to deepen your reflection.

Pray: Speak honestly with the Lord. Thank Him, ask for His help, and bring Him your intentions.

Rest and respond. Spend a few moments in silence. Choose one concrete response for your day.

For families and study groups

Gather once each week. Read a passage aloud, allow quiet prayer, and invite each person to share freely. Respect personal confidences. Close by praying for one another.

Dates follow the USCCB 2026 Liturgical Calendar. The Scripture selections in this booklet support its weekly themes and are separate from the Sunday Mass readings.



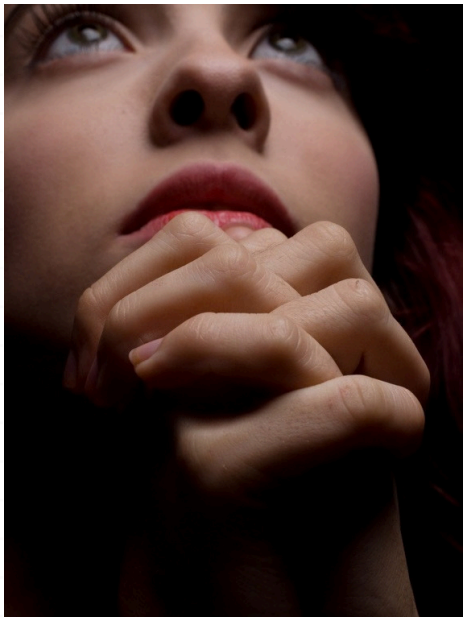
Advent Week One:

A Time of Preparation, A Time of Prayer

A voice is heard, crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight the path of our God.

Great events are marked by great preparation. A wedding, the coming of a new baby, graduations, special anniversaries, significant birthdays, and celebrations of all sorts are often months in the planning.

Christmas is a spiritually significant event. And so it follows that Christmas is preceded by a time of serious preparation. Advent is that time. This liturgical season helps us prepare for the spiritual reality of Christmas – the gift of our salvation through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. How then can we make our advent experience more fruitful?



All true spiritual preparation begins with prayer. Prayer is to the spiritual life as lungs are to the physical life. Without prayer, spiritual life cannot be sustained. It languishes, suffers, and dies. For the Christian, prayer is not optional. It is essential.

Throughout the ages, great men and women of faith have shared their experiences of prayer with us. What they have written is helpful. It educates us, encourages us, and enlightens us. St. Teresa of Avila tells us that prayer is simply conversation with God. St. Francis de Sales says, *"The chief exercise of prayer is to speak to God and to hear God speak in the bottom of your heart"* (Letters to Persons in the World, 3, 11). And John Cardinal Newman states, *"As speech is the organ of human society, and the means of human civilization, so is prayer the instrument of divine fellowship and divine training"* (Miscellanies, 203).

But, in the end, the only way to pray is to begin. And the only way to pray well is to pray often. As one spiritual writer says, "*The only way to pray is to pray; and the way to pray well is to pray much. If one has not time for this, then one must at least pray regularly. But the less one prays, the worse it goes"* (Dom Chapman" Spiritual Letters, quoted in The Book of Catholic Quotations, Farrar, Straus, & Cudahy, Inc, 1956).

"FOR THE CHRISTIAN, PRAYER IS NOT OPTIONAL. IT IS ESSENTIAL."

And why shouldn't we pray much? In prayer, God lifts our hearts and minds to Him. Through prayer, He calls us into intimacy with Him. From prayer, we grow to spiritual maturity. And because of prayer, "the fundamental cause of present day difficulties" is removed (Pope Pius XI, Caritate Christi compulsi, 1932).

How, then, can we pray better? Meditating on Sacred Scripture is one way. Sacred Scripture is God's revelation of Himself, and through it He speaks to us. With each reading, God instructs us, guides us, leads us, and answers our deepest needs. Using Sacred Scripture as a means of entering into prayer, then, is the best way to improve the quality of our prayer time.

Lectio-divina is a centuries-old way of praying with Scripture. This way of praying can deepen our advent experience and help prepare us to receive the abundant life Jesus Christ longs to

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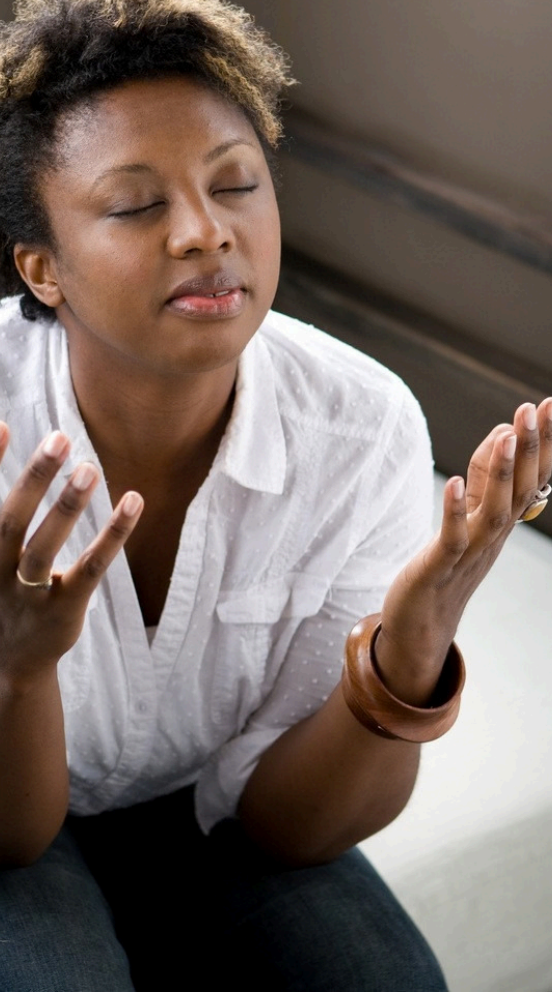

"PRAYER IS THE GATEWAY TO DIVINE UNION AND INTIMACY WITH GOD. THROUGH IT WE ARE INFORMED, REFORMED, AND TRANSFORMED. OUR HEART IS HEALED. OUR SPIRIT IS PURIFIED. OUR SOUL IS MADE WHOLE."

give us this Christmas. The following six steps lead us in the method of Lectio-Divina:

1. First, prepare to meet with God. Come to your time of prayer with expectant faith, knowing that this prayerful meditation on the Word of God will yield fruit in your life even if it is not immediately apparent. Before beginning, rid yourself as much as possible from distractions.

2. Next, select a Scripture passage. While there is no right or wrong way to select a passage, during this advent season readings relating to the coming of the Messiah are particularly appropriate. Use the readings of the day, the Office of Readings, a Scripture study guide, or the infancy narratives. The passage need not be lengthy, for the goal is not to make progress reading the Bible, but to make progress in our relationship with God.

3. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Ask the Holy Spirit to remove any interior obstacles or blocks that might prevent you from hearing the word of God. Ask Him to give you knowledge and understanding, wisdom and hope. Ask Him to illuminate any areas of your heart that need to experience His healing and light.

4. Read the passage of Scripture slowly. Make yourself present to the Word through an act of faith. Consider the context of the passage, what is being said in the passage, and what the specific application might be for you in your life.

5. Listen for God's voice in the "bottom of your heart." What is God saying to you through this passage? Is He teaching you a lesson, explaining a great truth, shedding light on a circumstance in your life, "revealing the fundamental cause of present day difficulty?" Listen, listen, listen.

6. Voice a response back to God. St. Teresa of Avila said, *"All that should be sought for in the exercise of prayer is conformity of our will with the divine will, in which consists the highest perfection."* With that in mind, what resolutions, decisions, or changes do you wish to make in your relationship with God, within yourself, or with others? Tell God what they are and use His grace to follow through with them. Take the first step today.

Prayer is the gateway to divine union and intimacy with God. Through it we are informed, reformed, and transformed. Our heart is healed. Our spirit is purified. Our soul is made whole. During this advent, promise to make time for prayer every day. See what a difference it will make in your preparation and experience of the coming of the Lord!



FOR REFLECTION | ADVENT 2026

Pray with Scripture

Use the lectio divina steps on this page. Pray with one passage each day, then record the word, phrase, or insight drawing your attention.

Day 1 Psalm 25:1-5
Day 2 Matthew 3:1-3
Day 3 John 3:16
Day 4 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
Day 5 Psalm 84:1-4

Reflect: What do you hear the Lord inviting you to receive or change?

Respond: Choose a daily prayer time. At week's end, review your journal and offer the Lord a response.



Advent Week Two:

A Time for Reconciliation, A Time for Forgiveness

For God so loved the world that he gave his Only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. -- John 3:16

The whole purpose of Christmas is reconciliation. Through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, His passion, death, and resurrection, God's mercy flowed into the world, the breach of original sin was mended, and fellowship between God and man was restored. Each Christmas commemorates again this wondrous gift of reconciliation and love.

For us too, Christmas is about mercy and forgiveness. It is about letting go of past injuries, renouncing old judgments, giving up grudges. It is about renewing relationships, healing hurts, and making peace. It is about hope and new beginnings, restoration and renewal. But nowhere is it written that forgiveness is easy.

Forgiving someone who has deeply hurt us is a daunting task, and its difficulty is proportionate to the degree of injury we have experienced. The deeper the wound, the harder forgiveness comes. But Jesus tells us we *must* forgive – seventy times seven times if necessary. Why is forgiveness so important?

Medical science gives us a partial answer. Our physical, emotional, and mental health depend on it. Repressed anger causes high blood pressure, ulcers, heart problems, loss of memory, gastro-intestinal disorders, increased susceptibility to infection, and clinical depression. Resentment breaks up marriages, loses jobs, splits up friendships. Bitterness creates poor self-image, poor interpersonal relationships, poor job performance. All in all, lack of forgiveness separates, isolates, and devastates. Life becomes a living hell.

But, unforgiveness affects more than just our physical, emotional, and mental health. Our spiritual health suffers as well. If we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven:

> ***For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*** ***Mt. 6:14***

How, then, can we begin to forgive? First we clear up misconceptions about it. Forgiveness does not mean:

- **We condone the hurtful behavior**
- **Our pain doesn't matter**
- **Everything is okay**
- **We allow ill will toward us to continue**
- **We permit ourselves or those we love to stay in an abusive or harmful situation**
- **A just resolution is unnecessary**
- **We "feel" forgiveness.**

Rather, forgiveness is a free-will action, prompted by grace, which sets us free from the consequences of sin. Forgiveness is a liberating, grace-filled decision. And, it most frequently takes place over time.

Psychologists have helped to identify the steps in the process of forgiveness. Basically, they all agree on certain fundamental actions:

- **Admit the anger.**

For various reasons, many people do not admit they are angry. As long as this anger remains below the surface, it exerts a power that is difficult to control. Admitting it exists is the first way to loosen its hold.

- **Identify or name the emotions or hurt involved.**

Ask the questions, "What did I lose?" or "What negative effect has the offense caused?" The answers to these questions point the direction to healing and help identify what needs to be resolved. Is it a loss of fidelity, the negative effect of rejection, a loss of good name?

- **Express the emotion or hurt.**

Write it out in a journal, talk with a friend, confessor, or spiritual director, talk to the person who injured you, but get it out.

- **Exercise understanding.**

This can be the most challenging step in the process of forgiveness. Psychologists call it "reframing." Essentially, it is choosing to reappraise what happened by considering other factors we may have ignored initially. For

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Three Spiritual Helps for Forgiveness:

Do Not Let the Sun Set on Your Anger

"…*do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil"* (Eph. 4:26-27). Here, St. Paul is telling us "Overcome anger before it overcomes you." We must begin the process of forgiveness as soon as an offense has been committed against us. Once anger has the opportunity to take root within our soul, it is much more difficult to rout out. Failure to forgive is sin. And, through sin we choose evil over God's grace, making room for the devil to work within us.

Pray for Your Persecutors

Something marvelous begins to happen as we enter into prayer for those who have hurt us — we begin to see our persecutor through God's eyes. In a sense, God "reframes" our perception, and we come to see that the one who injured us deserves our compassion. Had that person known the extent of God's love he never could have committed the action. With this understanding, prayer for our persecutor becomes easier. Our anger is assuaged and we begin to forgive. In the process, our intercessory prayer becomes a healing agent in our persecutor's heart that leads him to the love of Christ.

Meditate on the Passion of Christ

Meditating on the Passion of Jesus is a great source of healing and helps us in our forgiving process. What emotional pain or suffering did Jesus not experience? Was there one indignity He did not suffer? One humiliation He did not own? As we meditate on the Passion of Jesus, we come to see that our every sorrow was nailed to the cross with Him. And His blood has redeemed it. We have only to appropriate the grace He merited for us.

example, it is hard to forgive someone if we perceive his actions as only malevolent and unloving. But, it may be easier to forgive him if we see his actions as a result of his own deprived circumstances and personal limitations.

- **Forgive and cancel the debt.** Ultimately, the moment arrives to make the decision to forgive. It does not mean the pain will automatically go away, nor does it mean there won't be moments of regret or sadness. It does mean that in those moments we will admit the hurt and renew our commitment to forgive in spite of it. When we find it difficult to let go of resentment or bitterness, we should prayerfully look at the cause. Perhaps there is an unrelated area within us that needs to be healed.

- **A word about reconciliation.** The best-case scenario is that we are able to achieve reconciliation with the party who has injured us. However, in many cases, this is not possible. The injuring party may not be alive, may not want to reconcile, or may be emotionally or physically dangerous to us. None of these, however, diminishes our mandate to forgive.

Advent is the perfect time to offer forgiveness. In so doing, our Christmas will be marked by true peace and real love. May we accept the grace of reconciliation that comes to us through Jesus Christ and then extend it to others.

FOR REFLECTION | ADVENT 2026

Take a step toward forgiveness

1. How does Johnnette describe forgiveness as a choice supported by grace? What distinguishes forgiveness from excusing harm?

2. Review the steps in the reflection: admit anger, name the hurt, express the hurt, seek understanding, choose forgiveness, and consider reconciliation.

3. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring one person or situation to mind. Which step needs your attention? Write your prayer and your next action.

Respond: Pray for the person who hurt you. Consider receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent.

Forgiveness does not require renewed contact or returning to a harmful relationship. Reconciliation requires care and discernment.



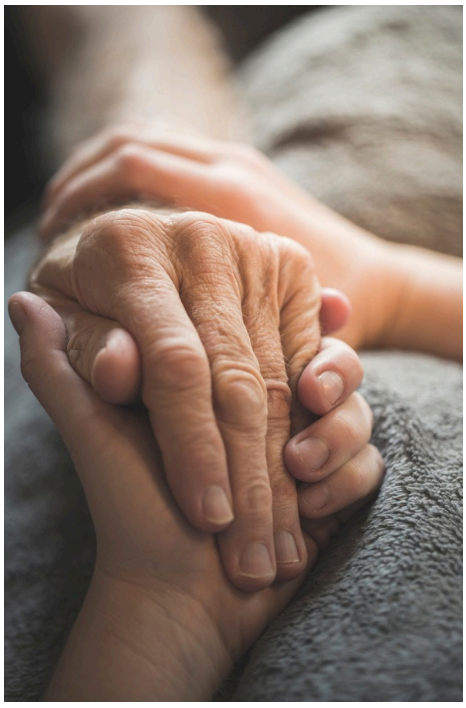
Advent Week Three:

Time for Charity, A Time for Love

May the Lord make you overflow with love for one another and for all, even as our love does for you. May he strengthen your hearts … At the coming of our Lord Jesus… -- *1 Thes. 3:12-13*

Toy collections, food drives, charity bazaars – all common activities in communities and parishes during the Christmas season. And they are good. They help fulfill Jesus' mandate to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). However, this command of Jesus is subordinate to the one preceding it – "… you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind."

Love of neighbor flows from love of God, and love of God is a prerequisite for a *charitable* action. There is a profound difference between a humanitarian act and an act of charity. A humanitarian action, admirable as it may be, is limited in potential. Rooted in human compassion and accomplished through human incentive, it goes only as far as the individual's generosity and goodwill carry it.



An act of charity, however, is much different. It finds its source in love of God and its roots are sunk into the divine life itself. A charitable action is infused with grace and brings a supernatural reality to the circumstance or situation it aids. Like its source, an act of charity has benefits that are infinite, limitless, and everlasting.

For our good deeds to become charitable acts, we must center our hearts, our souls, our minds, and all of our strength on love of God. Then, and only then, will our good deeds effect a change that reaches beyond the finite to touch the eternal. How, then, do we love God above all things?

Our own human experiences of love tell us much. I remember falling in love with my husband. I wanted to spend as much time with him as possible, and when we weren't together, I wanted to have reminders of him near to me. Pictures, letters, souvenirs from dates, all of these things took on special meaning because they drew my attention back to my beloved.

Loving God follows much the same course. Desiring to spend time with Him in prayer, meeting with Him at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, receiving the sacraments frequently, hearing Him speak to us in Scripture, filling our day with holy reminders of His graciousness and generosity, of His love and mercy — through all of these ways our love of God grows stronger. And, in time, we begin to live Jesus' words – to love God with our whole heart, our whole soul, with all of our mind, with all of our strength – and to love our neighbor as ourselves. From love of God blossoms love for others, and from this love grace-infused acts of charity are produced.

"FOR OUR GOOD DEEDS TO BECOME CHARITABLE ACTS, WE MUST CENTER OUR HEARTS, OUR SOULS, OUR MINDS, AND ALL OF OUR STRENGTH ON LOVE OF GOD."

While toy collections, food drives, and charity bazaars demonstrate a care and concern for our neighbor at Christmas time, Holy Mother Church outlines fourteen ways through which we can show love of neighbor every day of the year. She calls them the *Works of Mercy.* They fall into two categories – corporal works of mercy and spiritual works of mercy. The former helps our

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neighbor's physical needs, the latter helps our neighbor's spiritual needs. Both are important.

When we think of merciful acts, we most frequently think of the corporal works of mercy. They are: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, tending the sick, visiting prisoners, and burying the dead. Our toy collections, food drives, and charity bazaars fall into this category of charitable actions.

However, in our own culture it is often the spiritual works of mercy that are most needed. Saint Teresa of Calcutta said this about the poverty of the West:

There are different kinds of poverty. In India some people live and die in hunger. But in the West you have another kind of poverty, spiritual poverty. This is far worse. People do not believe in God, do not pray. People do not care for each other. You have the poverty of people who are dissatisfied with what they have, who do not know how to suffer, who give in to despair. This poverty of heart is often more difficult to relieve and to defeat.

Saint Teresa's words encourage us toward the spiritual works of mercy. They are: converting sinners, instructing the ignorant, counseling the wayward, comforting the sorrowing, bearing adversity patiently, forgiving offenses, and praying for the dead. These holy undertakings do much to relieve the poverty of heart so abundantly present in our contemporary culture.

Opportunities to exercise the works of mercy present themselves to us each day. And, regrettably, we often let them pass by. It is not that we intend to be uncharitable. It is simply that we have done little to cultivate a "charitable outlook." This Christmas, let us ask God to give us "vision of mercy" so that we can respond with charity to our neighbor's needs. In so doing, we will ignite a fire of divine love in the hearts of others that will last for all eternity.

Examine your charity

Love of God gives direction to your care for others. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you answer honestly.

1. Do I approach my daily duties with love or resentment?
2. Do I offer the Lord my trials and disappointments?
3. Do I make time for daily prayer?
4. Do I receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly?
5. Do I recognize the dignity of the person I find difficult to love?
6. Do my spending choices leave room to help people in need?
7. Do I give someone my full attention when listening?
8. Do I seek my neighbor's good without expecting a return?
9. Am I willing to serve beyond my usual responsibilities?
10. Where do prejudice or bias affect my choices?
11. What work of mercy have I offered recently?
12. What work of mercy will I offer today?

Respond: Choose one corporal or spiritual work of mercy. Name the person you will serve and set a time to act.

Pray: Lord Jesus, deepen my love for You. Help me recognize and respond to the needs of others.



Advent Week Four:

A Time for Sharing, A Time for Caring

The people who walked in darkness have found a great light; Upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shown… For a child is born to us, a son is given us … They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.(Isaiah 9: 1, 5)

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ has forever changed the destiny of mankind. Through His birth, death, and resurrection, the chains of death are broken, the gates of heaven are flung open wide, and eternal life has been restored to man. However, accepting the salvation Christ has won remains an individual decision to be made by each human being.

I remember well when I made that decision for myself. It all started with a woman who shared her faith in Jesus Christ with me. Though she was going through an emotionally difficult time, she was certain God had a plan for her in the midst of it. Her trust stood out in stark contrast to my own faith experience which had not recovered from my college years. Like living water flooding the landscape of my soul, her words and her witness brought me new life and led me back to Catholicism.

Each of us is called to share our faith with others, to evangelize. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines evangelization as "the proclamation of Christ and his Gospel by word and the testimony of life…" (§850). And, Vatican II states that, "… the true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed either to non-believers with a view to leading them to faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life."

My friend illustrates this perfectly. Her words, coupled with the testimony of her life, made a compelling statement about God, Jesus Christ, Christianity, and Catholicism. Like a "true apostle," when the opportunity came for her to "announce Christ," she made use of it by "instructing, strengthening, and encouraging" me to come back home to the Catholic Church.

"AS CATHOLICS, WE ARE CALLED TO A MATURITY OF FAITH THAT COMES ABOUT THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY, HOLY READING, AND THE SACRAMENTS."

Today, more than ever, this evangelization is needed. In the midst of a culture which has advanced a post-Christian worldview, and ever more is embracing an anti-Christian ethic, every baptized Christian must assume his role to bring the truth of Jesus Christ to the world. The work of evangelization is to imbue all of society and culture with the Gospel message. It is to infuse a Christian spirit into the customs and mores of the social milieu. It is to establish Gospel principles as the standard against which laws and ethics are weighed. It is to advance all of society's values that are God-honoring, and to eliminate those that are not. It is to bring a Christian perspective to public affairs, to mass media, to professional duties, and to domestic life. In a word, it is to *transform* contemporary life.

How, then, do we effectively communicate the Catholic Faith to others? First, we must know our Faith. This does not require us to attain a degree in theology nor does it require us to become scripture scholars. Rather, it means we must be informed Catholics: faithful sons and daughters who have a good understanding of the precepts of our Faith and who know Church teaching on various subjects and issues.

Religious education is a life-long endeavor. As Catholics, we are called to a maturity of faith that comes about through prayer, study, holy reading, and the sacraments. Participating in a bible study, reading faithful Catholic literature, attending spiritual enrichment classes, studying the lives of the saints, spending quiet moments in prayer,

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fervent reception of the sacraments all lead us to an ever-deepening experience of faith.

Secondly, we must *expect* to evangelize. A guest I once interviewed said he starts his morning prayer by asking God to send him people to evangelize throughout the day. Imagine what this world would be like if all the Catholic faithful prayed this prayer — and then followed through on it! The world would be transformed.

If we *expect* to evangelize it means we are prepared. St. Peter tells us, "…always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have." One of the best ways to "have our answer ready" is to prepare our testimony. Our testimony is simply our own personal story of God's action in our life. Through it, we "declare the wonderful deeds of him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light."

My friend's story of her personal walk in faith during a traumatic time inspired me to invite Jesus into my life as well. Now, I make it a point to share my own story of faith at every opportunity. Personal testimony remains the most effective means of evangelization.

Finally, to effectively evangelize we must be patient. St. James says, "*Be patient, therefore, my brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil. He looks forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and the spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.*"

My friend never imposed the faith on me. Instead, she proposed it through her testimony and the example of her life. Patiently she sowed the seeds of truth into my heart, watered them with prayer and friendship, and waited for them to take root. This process can take time. She was willing to invest it, confident that the Lord's work would be accomplished in the end.

Ultimately, to the extent that each of us is willing to be a "first ripple" which makes an impact in the sea of contemporary culture, to that extent will the world of man be transformed. My friend was willing to be a "first ripple." She shared her faith with me and it made all the difference. This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of the One who won us our salvation, let each of us commit to be a "first ripple" in the lives of others. Let us be found ready and willing so that many souls might be saved.

FOR REFLECTION | ADVENT 2026

Share your personal witness

Your experience of God's grace offers a personal way to share your faith. Prepare a brief testimony using the three parts Johnnette recommends.

I was: Describe your life before turning to Jesus for help. Name the struggle or need without including unnecessary personal details.

Jesus did: Share the moment of conversion, prayer, or grace through which you experienced His presence and help.

I am: Explain how your relationship with Jesus has changed your life and how you continue to grow in faith.

Reflect: What would you most like another person to know about the Lord's love through your experience?

Respond: Write your testimony in your journal. Practice sharing your story in two minutes, with humility and gratitude. Pray for an opportunity to encourage someone.

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. Let gentleness and respect guide your words.

Pray: Holy Spirit, help me recognize the person You invite me to encourage. Give me words rooted in truth and love.

YOUR RESPONSE

Carry your prayer into daily life

Return to these questions throughout Advent.

The Scripture or insight I want to remember

The person or intention I bring to prayer

My next step in prayer, forgiveness, charity, or witness

The grace I received this Advent

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