



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout
the Archdiocese of New York*



Prayers of Advent



During Advent, we ready ourselves to receive the great gift of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. To help you grow closer to Jesus during these four weeks, we have prepared prayers for hope, peace, joy, and love, which you may use as you light each Advent candle. May these prayers gradually illuminate you with grace, so that you will be ready on Christmas Day to welcome Jesus, who promises us that the darkneses of our lives will always be overcome by His eternal light.

Hope

First Week of Advent

Lord, today we light this candle of hope. We remember the prophets who foretold a Savior, and we hold on to the promises You've given us.

As we enter this Advent season, may Your hope fill our hearts and keep our eyes fixed on You. Thank You for the hope that sustains us in every season. Help us to share this hope with those around us, shining Your light into the world. Amen.





Peace

Second Week of Advent

God of peace, as we light this candle, we thank You for the peace You offer through Jesus. In a world filled with turmoil, You are our calm and our comfort. Help us to carry this peace within us and to share it with others. May our homes, our hearts, and our relationships be touched by Your peace as we prepare for Jesus' coming. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace and our constant refuge. Amen.

Joy

Third Week of Advent

Dear Lord, today we light this candle of joy. We remember the excitement of the shepherds and their wonder at the birth of the Savior. Fill our hearts with that same joy, a joy that comes from knowing You and from the good news of Jesus. Let this joy shine brightly, lifting our spirits and pointing others to Your love. May our joy be a testimony of Your grace in our lives. Amen.



Love



Fourth Week of Advent

Lord, thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your Son for us, even before we loved You. Thank You for inviting us into Your family. For all of us who are brothers and sisters in faith, please help us to love one another in perfect harmony. Father, please help us to see every person the same way that You see them. Help us to love them the way that You love them — even when they don't love us back. Please show us how to walk continually in Your love, that perfect love which casts out fear. We love You, Lord. Amen.