



Notre Dame Morning Prayer December 2-6, 2019

+ = In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Monday, December 2, 2019 - first week of Advent

Yesterday was the first day of Advent. Advent means 'coming' or 'arrival' and is the time in our Church year when we anticipate celebrating in a special way the birth of Jesus at Christmas. In your classroom, you may receive an Advent wreath with four candles, each representing a week, starting with Sunday, before Christmas. The first candle represents hope: we hope that we may truly understand what it means to welcome Christ into our lives.

Let us pray. + Lord, we thank You for this time of Advent to help us celebrate Your birth with greater joy. Give us hope - hope that You truly live and that You want to bless us with Your presence. If we don't have hope, help us to understand what it means to have You as our Saviour. If we do have hope, teach us to share it with those around us. We offer all our prayers through the intercessions of the Mother of God: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Let us pray. + Dear Lord, hope is life-sustaining. Sometimes all we have is hope and when we don't, please provide it: hope for ourselves, hope for our families, and hope for our world. We also especially ask You to give hope to all those who have been driven from their home because of violence and war. We offer our prayers through the intercessions of the Mother of God: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

We often think of hope as wishing for something, like a certain present at Christmas. Hope in the Christian sense, however, is more like an assurance, a confidence that the good that we desire will actually happen.

Let us pray. + Lord, it can be hard sometimes to believe that good things will happen. Your birth is a reminder that You can overcome obstacles and bring good into the world. Help us to believe in Your strength and to live in hope that Your will will be accomplished. We offer our prayers through the intercessions of the Mother of God: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Thursday, December 5, 2019 - St. Nicholas

Tomorrow is the feast day of St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was a bishop in Turkey in the fourth century who was known for his generosity. There is a story of him providing money to a poor family by throwing three bags of gold through their window and tomorrow is a day in many countries where gifts are given. The stories of St. Nicholas inspired the creation of the person of Santa Claus: let us remember, as St. Nicholas did, that the reason we celebrate Christmas is because of God's choice to enter our world as a child.

Let us pray. + Lord, we thank You for the example of St. Nicholas. A man of great wealth, he gave it all away to serve Your people. May his generosity inspire us to have giving hearts, especially during this time of preparation for the celebration of Your birth. And may his example of faith remind us that You are the source of all goodness. We offer our prayers through the intercessions of the Mother of God: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Friday, December 6, 2019 - Immaculate Conception

This Sunday is the feast day of the Immaculate Conception where we celebrate the conception of Mary by her parents, Joachim and Anne. Joachim and Anne were not able to have children but prayed for God's help and had Mary later in their lives. We believe that Mary was conceived with special grace so that she could have Jesus, the Son of God, as her son. The feast of the Immaculate Conception is also the feast day for our school.

Let us pray. + Today the chains of barrenness are shattered, for having heard the prayer of Joachim and Anne, against all hope God has openly promised the birth of the Maiden of God, from who the very Infinite One, our Lord, will be born as a man, the One who commanded the angels to cry to her: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.