

CELEBRATING WEEK FOUR of ADVENT

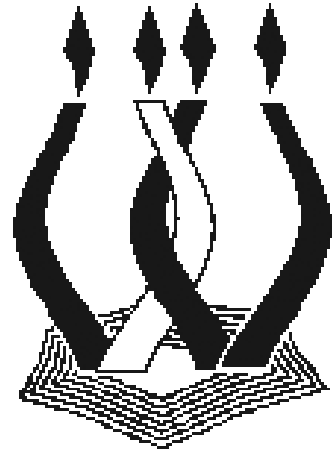
**Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel.**

- Isaiah 7:14



**We pause and remember that the Lord for Whom we wait
has come once, is now with us, and will come again.
Come, Lord Jesus, and do not delay!**

**The danger during this fourth
week of Advent is that the
Christmas preparations will
engulf these last days
of Advent and diminish
our anticipation and reflection
about the coming of the Lord into our lives.
We are about to celebrate the
anniversary of the birth of Jesus.
He came once as a child in
Bethlehem. He comes again and
again in a variety of ways whether
through the sacraments, Scripture,
others or at the end of time.
Are we ready to meet Him when He comes?**



Lighting of Advent Wreath

Light all four candles on the Advent wreath.

Praise to You, O Lord our God.

**We praise You for Your Son,
Jesus the Christ;**

He is our Emmanuel,

the Hope of the peoples,

He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us,

He is the Savior of every nation.

He is the Wonder Counselor,

the Prince of Peace,

the Lord of lords and the King of kings.

**May the lighted candles of the Advent wreath
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.**

May He come quickly and not delay.



**It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
When first He came among us
in the lowliness of human flesh,
He fulfilled the plan You formed long ago
and opened for us the way of salvation.
Now, hoping that the salvation promised us
will be ours,
we watch for the day
when Christ will come again
in majesty and glory.
And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim Your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise.**



Malachi 3:1

Lo, I am sending My messenger to prepare the way before Me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord Whom you seek, and the Messenger of the Covenant Whom you desire. Yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

L. The angel of the lord declared unto Mary.

A. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

L. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

A. Be it done to me according to Your word.

Hail Mary...

L. And the Word was made flesh.

A. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

L. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

A. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Our Lady and Mother
of the One who was and is
and is to come,
dawn of the New Jerusalem,
we earnestly beseech you,
bring us by your intercession
so to live in love
that the Church, the Body of Christ,
may stand in this world's dark
as a fiery icon of the New Jerusalem.
We ask you to obtain for us this mercy
through Jesus Christ, Your Son and Lord,
Who lives and reigns
with the Father in the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen.**



**All beauty is a spark of the fire of Your splendor,
all music is an echo of Your harmony,
all kindness is a fragment of Your excellence,
all creatures praise our love.
May You be blessed, O Father,
by the dew of the morning and the damp fragrance of evening,
by the song of the nightingale and the perfume of the rose,
by the smiles and grace of our children,
by the daring of youth and the wisdom of elders,
by the love of the husband and the tenderness of the wife,
by the dedication and love of those committed to You,
by the peace of the pardoned sinner,
by the holiness of the people in the street,
and by the humble and pure of heart.
May every creature that has breath sing Your praise
for the Gift of the Messias,
our Emmanuel.**



Revelations 12: 1–5

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Reflection

As soon as Jesus was born, visitors began to come. First it was the shepherds. Then the wise men. Then Simeon and Anna. Then even the soldiers of Herod were sent to find Him. Together these visitors represent the people of every nation, coming by every possible path and conveyance to see Christ. It was impossible to contain God in heaven. Through Jesus, He “visited” and “brought redemption” to us. He continues through Jesus and through us to dwell in our world today. When people look at us, do they think of Jesus?

Reflection questions for the fourth week:

Where or how do you personally meet Jesus?

What are you doing to overcome your reluctance to see Christ in others?

What special spiritual preparations are you making for the feast of the anniversary of Christ’s birth?

Is consumerism a bigger part of your Christmas than Jesus is? Why?

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times did'st give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to anxiously await the Lord.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!