

Advent Wreath Prayers for Vocations 2023



Diocese of Rapid City
Office of Vocations
225 Main St Ste 100
Rapid City, SD 57701

www.Gods-call.com



R^VOCATIONS

Advent Prayer Format

Gather around the Advent Wreath. Someone lights the candles. All make the sign of the cross while the leader says:

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Make straight his paths.

The reader reads the Scripture of the day from the following pages.

Intercessions:

Leader: Lord, bless all priests and consecrated men and women.
Grant them grace to lay down their lives for you every day,
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, bless all married couples. Grant them grace to help
one another on the way to holiness and to raise their children
to be open to your call and give their lives fully to you,
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, bless all who are discerning your call. Guide them to
you and give them the grace they need to follow you wherever
you lead, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, grant us many holy vocations to priesthood and
consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, open our hearts to receive you as we prepare this
Advent for your coming at Christmas, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.



With the Advent wreath, we prepare for the coming of the True Light into the World.

A circular wreath represents the eternity and constant presence of God. The greenery represents the eternal life He promises us in Christ. The candles represent our waiting for the Messiah and His coming into the world as the Light of the World, filling our darkness with His marvelous Light.

Ask a priest to bless the wreath.

The first week of Advent, one candle is lit.

The second week, two candles.

The third week, three.

The fourth week, four.

Three candles are violet (weeks 1, 2 and 4). Violet is the color of this liturgical season, representing the spirit of penance and prayer by which we prepare for His coming. Violet is also the color of royalty, representing the kingship of Christ.

The candle for the third week is rose, for “Gaudete Sunday.” *Gaudete* is a Latin word from the entrance antiphon of this Sunday’s Mass, meaning “rejoice,” and this week marks our joyful anticipation, our *rejoicing* at the coming of Christ.

During the Christmas season, a fifth white candle in the center of the wreath is lit. This is the Christ candle, representing His Presence among us.

The group may add their own intercessions. Then all pray the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations:

Heavenly Father,

We beg you for an increase in religious vocations and holy marriages in the Diocese of Rapid City. Look upon us with favor and choose from our homes those who are needed for your work. Send your Spirit to strengthen us and give us open hearts and minds ready to say “Yes” when you call. Help our parishes and families encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life. We commend our prayers to our Patroness, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Together, everyone prays the prayer of the day.

Leader: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Saint N. (saint of the day or any saints you wish)

All: Pray for us.

*Close with the **Our Father** and the sign of the cross.*



DAILY ADVENT PRAYERS

ADVENT WEEK 1

Sunday, December 3, The First Sunday of Advent:

“Be vigilant at all times and pray.” Luke 21:36a

God, our Father, your desire only our good. Teach us to trust you and in your plan for our lives.

Monday, December 4, St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor:

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.” Mt. 8:8

Jesus, I truly desire to be with you. Show me your will for my life. St. John Damascene, pray for us.

Tuesday, December 5:

“I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.” Lk 10:21b

Jesus grant that I might always listen to your call. Open my heart, that I may do whatever you ask of me.

Wednesday, December 6, St. Nicholas, Bishop:

“Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, “We have seen incredible things today.” Lk 5:26

Come Holy Spirit! Teach us to listen to what God proclaims. May the peace He gives settle deeply into our hearts. St. Nicholas, pray for us.

Thursday, December 7, Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor:

In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.” Mt 18:14

Lord, you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son, and she followed you faithfully. Help me to do the part in your plan for which you have chosen me. St. Ambrose, pray for us.

ADVENT WEEK 4

Sunday, December 24, The Fourth Sunday of Advent:

“You, my child, shall be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Lk 1:76–79

Lord, guide all parents to live lives faithful to you, that they may raise their children to trust in you in all things, to turn to you for strength, and to follow you always in everything.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Monday, December 25, Christmas:

“The angel said to the shepherds, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’” Lk 2:10–14

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son. May the joy of Christmas flow from our hearts to all that we encounter. Confirm all priests, consecrated people and married couples in their vocation and grant us more holy priests and consecrated people.

your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.’ Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.” Lk 1:34–38

Mary, intercede for us that we may submit to our Father’s will as you did—let it be done to me according to his word.

Thursday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor:

“Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Lk 1:42b–45

Good and merciful Lord, grant me the humility and obedience necessary to follow your call. Bless our priests to guide your people. St. Peter Canisius, pray for us.

Friday, December 22:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.” Lk 1:46–49

Come O Lord into our lives, make us free of all that prevents us from resting solely in you.

Saturday, December 23, St. John of Kanty, Priest:

“So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, ‘John is his name,’ and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.” Lk 1:62–64

Lord, guide all parents to live lives faithful to you, that they may raise their children to trust in you in all things, to turn to you for strength, and to follow you always in everything. St. John of Kanty, pray for us.

Friday, December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” Mt 11:28–30

Lord, you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son, and she followed you faithfully. Help me to do the part in your plan for which you have chosen me. O Blessed Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception, pray for us.

Saturday, December 9, St. Juan Diego:

“Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” Mt 11:11

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, help me to rest child-like in the reassurance that you are leading my life with tender care and unfailing guidance. St. Juan Diego, pray for us.

ADVENT WEEK 2

Sunday, December 10, The Second Sunday of Advent:

“A voice of one crying out in the desert. ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” Lk 3:4

Father, we trust that you have provided for all of the needs of your church. Grant us wisdom to know how you are calling us to serve and the courage to follow you always.

Monday, December 11, St. Damasus I, Pope:

“I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.” Mt 17:12–13

Jesus, with you and in you there is no fear. Take my hand and lead me on your path—I follow you in trust for I know that your yoke is easy. St Damasus, pray for us.

Tuesday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe:

“John answered them all, saying, ‘I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’” Lk 3:16–17

Mary, pray for us that we may recognize the great blessings God has given us and generously give him our lives as you did.

Wednesday, December 13, St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr:

“When Jesus had come into the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him as he was teaching and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?’” Mt 21:23

Lord, we rejoice in you! We give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit—help us to live out fully the gifts of your Spirit. St. Lucy, pray for us.

Thursday, December 14, St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor:

“Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did.’” Mt 21:31c–32a

Grant O Lord that I might always follow your call, you are the true and everlasting God, only in you will we find complete joy. St. John of the Cross, pray for us.

Friday, December 15:

“And Jesus said to them in reply, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.’” Lk 7:22–23

Lord, it was your plan from all time to send your Son to save us. Grant me the grace to go forth to fulfill my part in your plan.

Saturday, December 16:

“All the people who listened, including the tax collectors, who were baptized

with the baptism of John, acknowledged the righteousness of God; but the Pharisees and scholars of the law, who were not baptized by him, rejected the plan of God for themselves.” 1Lk 7:29–30

St. Joseph, you remained faithful to the Lord always—strengthen married couples and help us to follow your example and give all to the One who has given all to us.

ADVENT WEEK 3**Sunday, December 17, The Third Sunday of Advent:**

“Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.” Mt 1:15b–16

Lord, guide all parents to live lives faithful to you, that they may raise their children to trust in you in all things, to turn to you for strength, and to follow you always in everything.

Monday, December 18:

“The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’” Mt 1:20b–21

Mary, you followed God’s plan for your life, and the Son became man. Intercede for us that we may joyfully and boldly respond to his call for our lives.

Tuesday, December 19:

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Lk 1:45

Lord Jesus, you are the way. Give me the grace to follow you on the way.

Wednesday, December 20:

“But Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?’ And the angel said to her in reply, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth,