



ADVENT WITH THE MASTERS 2017

Sunday Dec 3

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.
- Collect for Advent

Monday Dec 4

It is Christ's strength in us which makes us able to accept responsibilities and to bear one another's burdens. Yet not only those parts of life that are difficult and painful, but joy too is our Christ-life. If we see with his eyes, we see the loveliness of the earth, of skies and water and flowers and stars, with vision and sensitivity unimaginable otherwise. If we work with His hands, there is no work without dignity. And as to our love, it cannot fail to be creative love if it is Christ's...if we love with Christ's heart, we increase the life of the world, and build up the Kingdom of heaven here on earth.
- Caryll Houselander, from 'The Passion of the Infant Christ'

Tuesday Dec 5

Our own inner world conceals a wealth of sacred mysteries. We bear God within our souls by grace and with him the kingdom of heaven and eternal life...we live in the midst of innumerable mysteries, which are to be solved by faith alone. These reflections should constantly spur us to fresh activity and increase our joy in God, while banishing all melancholy and dejection.
- Katherine Drexel (1858 - 1955)



Wednesday Dec 6

My dear little son...I desire you to know who I am. I am the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of the true God who gives life and maintains its existence...do not be distressed, my littlest son. Am I not here with you who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not of your kind? - Our Lady of Guadalupe, as told to Juan Diego (16th Century)

Thursday Dec 7

Advent is a season of rejoicing because it revives the expectation of the most joyful event in history: the birth of the Son of God by the Virgin Mary. To know that God is not distant but close, not indifferent but compassionate, not aloof but a merciful Father who follows us lovingly with respect for our freedom: all this is a cause of deep joy which the alternating ups and downs of daily life cannot touch. "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Lk 1: 28). The Angel's announcement to Mary is an invitation to rejoice. Let us ask the Holy Virgin for the gift of Christian joy.
- John Paul II, Advent Angelus, 2003

Friday Dec 8

You will not take from me, my God, what you once gave me in your only Son, Jesus Christ, in whom you gave me all I desire. Mine are the heavens and mine is the earth. Mine are the nations, the just are mine, and mine the sinners. The angels are mine, and the Mother of God, and all things are mine; and God himself is mine and for me, because Christ is mine and all for me. - John of the Cross (1542 - 1591); from 'Little Sayings of Light and Love'



Saturday Dec 9

In our time there is a seeking, an anxious groping and searching for divine things but the longing grows that the time will nonetheless come again, when God dwells among people, when God lets himself be found. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 - 1945)

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