



Remembering Vocations in Your 2025 Advent Devotions. . .

Advent is the start of our liturgical year. It is the season of preparation for our celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent is also the season to pray for the faithful to be called to follow in the life of Christ as shepherds of his flock just as He was born to lead us to salvation.

As we prepare for Christmas with prayer and sacrifice, we ask the Holy Spirit to apply our devotions to the birth of new vocations to the religious life.

“... I encourage you to remain close to Jesus. As the Gospel tells us, the first disciples stayed with him “the whole day” (cf. Jn 1). Remain with him through private prayer, the celebration of the Sacraments, devotion to his Sacred Heart and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. ... No frontier will be beyond your reach if you walk with Christ.”¹ *Leo XIV*

The Advent Wreath

The advent wreath is a circle representing the promise of eternal life to those who follow Jesus. It is made of evergreens to symbolize that God always loves us. There are four candles—one for each week of advent; they symbolize Christ as the “Light of the World.” The candles for the first, second and fourth Sundays are purple to signify penance. The candle for the third Sunday is rose colored as a reminder that the joy of Christmas is almost at hand.

Prayer

Recite the Vocations Prayer following each week’s meditation:

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

The following meditations focus on each week of advent and the need for vocations to be “born” into the Church so that Christ’s life can continue through his followers.

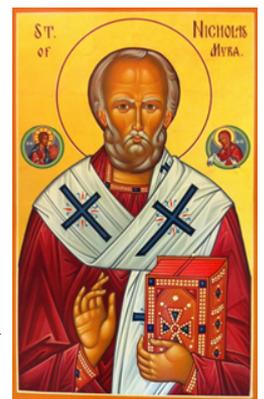


St. Francis Xavier

November 30, First Sunday of Advent [One purple candle]
December 3, Feast of St. Francis Xavier
December 6, Feast of St. Nicholas

Meditation

“A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love.” *Francis I*



St. Nicholas



The Immaculate Conception

December 7, Second Sunday in Advent [Two purple Candles]
December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Our Lady of Guadalupe

¹ Pope Leo XIV, *Address of Pope Leo XIV to the Major Superiors of the Society of Jesus*, October 25, 2025

Meditation

“Who can consider himself worthy to approach the priestly ministry? Who can embrace the consecrated life relying only on his or her own human powers?” “An emblematic human response, full of trust in God’s initiative, is the generous and unmitigated “Amen” of the Virgin of Nazareth, uttered with humble and decisive adherence to the plan of the Most High announced to her by God’s messenger (cf. Lk 1:38). Her prompt “Yes” allowed Her to become the Mother of God, the Mother of our Savior.” *Benedict XVI*

December 14, Third Sunday of Advent [Two purple candles and the rose candle]

Meditation

“It is important to encourage and support those who show clear signs of a call to priestly life and religious consecration, and to enable them to feel the warmth of the whole community as they respond “yes” to God and the Church.” *Benedict XVI*



St. Carlo Acutis
1991—2006
Patron of Youth
and Computer
Programmers
Canonized 2025

December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent [All four purple candles]

Meditation

“How can we not recall with gratitude to the Spirit *the many different forms of consecrated life*, which He has raised up throughout history and which still exist in the Church today? They can be compared to a plant with many branches, which sinks its roots into the Gospel and brings forth abundant fruit in every season of the Church’s life.”
John Paul II

Vocations are discerned by prayer and reflection. Each of us has a vocation that fulfills our purpose in life and provides service to our neighbors and our God. Discovering one’s own vocation can be perplexing without spiritual guidance. Be willing to seek counsel. Use the season of advent to discover the great gift that we have received in the birth and life of Jesus—True God and True Man—who leads us along the path to heaven.

As we discern and follow our vocations, pray also for those who are in formation for the religious life. Our prayers for them will provide grace and strength to take them through the arduous process leading to their final vows.

For information on vocations, go to:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/vocations>

or

<https://SerraSpark.org>



MARATTI, Carlo, The Holy Night (The Nativity), 1650s
Oil on canvas, Gemäldegalerie, Dresden

<https://www.wga.hu/>