

Advent prayer – Week 4

Prepare a Sacred Space themed on the Gift of Love around the Advent Wreath.

L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and Of the Holy Spirit. All: Amen

L: The Lord be with you R. And with your spirit.

Leader; As we light our fourth candle, we are reminded of the Great gift of Love. We take a minute now to remember all the people who show us the meaning of love; friends, family, people in our school community and the many people who show care for us. Each of us is called to live our Christian life rooted in the gift of love. We now listen to John's gospel and what Jesus had to say on the meaning of love.

The Lord be with you,

And with your spirit

A reading from the Holy Gospel of Saint John

Glory to you O' Lord

Reader 1 - I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends.

Reader 2 - You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants No, I've named you friends because I've share everything I've heard from the Father.

Reader 3- "You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear blessings to all people, blessings that won't spoil. As people who share blessings, remember the root command: Love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Pope Francis on the Gift of Love

Starting with the merciful love through which Jesus expressed God's commitment, we too can and must reciprocate his love with our commitment, and do so above all in serious situations of need, where there is a greater thirst for hope. I think, for example, of our commitment to forsaken people, to those who have severe disabilities, to the most seriously ill, to the dying, to those who are unable to express gratitude.... In all these situations we convey God's mercy through life-giving commitment, which witnesses to our faith in Christ. We must always bring God's tender caress — because God has caressed us with his mercy — bringing it to others, to those who are in need, to those who have anguish in their hearts or are sad: approach them with God's caress, which is the same that he gave to us. (20/2/16)

Love is not a word, it is a deed, a service; humble service, hidden and silent, like Jesus said himself: "do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Mt 6:3). It entails putting at others' disposal the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us, so that the community might thrive (cf. 1 Cor.

12:4-11). Furthermore, it is expressed in the sharing of material goods, so that no one be left in need. This sharing with and dedication to those in need is the lifestyle that God suggests, even to non-Christians, as the authentic path of humanity. (12/03/16)

Prayer/Reflection The following prayer was delivered by Mother Theresa when she addressed the United Nations in 1985. Let us listen to this prayer quietly and hear the call to live as a witness of Love.

Make us worthy Lord to serve our fellow humans throughout the world, who live and die in poverty and hunger.

Give them through our hands, this day, their daily bread
and by our understanding love give peace and joy.

Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

That where there is hatred I may bring love,~

That where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness,

That where there is disagreement, I may bring harmony,

That where there is error I may bring truth,

That where there is doubt I may bring faith,

That where there is despair I may bring hope,

That where there are shadows I may bring light,

That where there is sadness I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek to comfort rather than to be comforted,

To understand than to be understood,

To love than to be loved.

For it is by forgetting myself that I find.

It is by forgiving that I am forgiven,

It is by dying that I awaken to eternal life. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Reader -Dear Jesus help us to show great joy this week in our class, our school and our families. Lord hear us

Reader -Dear God our father we know many people are sad. Help us to bring joy into people's lives. Lord hear us

We unite our prayers with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples for all time: Our Father
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Final Song (Carol)