



Enhance your family prayer with
FAMILY ROSARY

The Joy Candle

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Pope Francis once said, "Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man." Help prepare your family for the coming of Christ by praying together each day. Don't worry, it doesn't have to be perfect! Take comfort in knowing there is no one "correct" way of doing it.

It's a busy time of year for everyone, but it's especially important to slow down long enough to prepare your hearts and minds for Jesus. Take a moment to breathe in the great anticipation.

As the Church transitions into a new season, know that we're joining you and your family in prayer. We promise to be with you, growing in faith, every step of the way. May God continue to bless you and your family.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building **family unity** through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of **family prayer**. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the slogan coined by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



“WE CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD ALONE, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN SPREAD THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL BY STAYING CLOSE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED.”

POPE FRANCIS

THE JOY CANDLE



Unveiling the significance of an Advent wreath's pink candle, the Joy Candle.

The third week of Advent is the week we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath, the Joy Candle.

WE ARE SURROUNDED BY JOY.

Though Advent is a penitential season, we're surrounded by joy. As we journey through this season, we empty ourselves of the extra and unneeded and find ourselves open to be filled by and with Jesus himself.

Joy becomes more than just a happy feeling or a warm fuzzy. It becomes a destination and a commitment we make. As the Holy Spirit becomes a more comfortable companion to us, we find that joy is a place we share.

Joy does not equal happiness, but it takes time to realize that, to appreciate it for the gift it is. We have to learn to cooperate with God's grace in our lives to be able to touch the joy that is as part of us as the air we breathe.

GOD LOVES US.

In the picture of the Son of God as a human being—a helpless little baby—we see proof of God's love for each of us. God didn't just stop by sending his Son as a baby who had to grow up and struggle through life like the rest of us. He sent a Son who would heal us.

All of us are hurt in many different ways throughout our lives. We get hurt physically and we get hurt internally. After a while, all that pain can wear us down and make us ready to just stop trying.

It becomes easier and easier to forget that God loves us when we're wrapped in our own pain. Advent offers us the chance to reach beyond ourselves, past our pain, towards a baby who can't do anything himself, and yet who holds the promise of our salvation.

DISCOVER JOY BY SHOWING LOVE.

When I forget myself and give to the people who need me—whether they need something that makes me feel like a hero or something as simple as a sippy cup—I'm showing love to Jesus. Those people in my home are where I have to start with my love.

The love I give the people in my daily life spreads joy throughout the world. The Joy Candle is lit as I wipe a table or prepare dinner, just as surely as it's lit by those who are working in the trenches of soup kitchens and Calcutta.

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GOING DEEPER

This week's reflection focuses on the third Joyful Mystery, the **Birth of Our Lord**. The word infant comes from the Latin *infans*, which means incapable of speech. Yet even though they cannot speak, infants can still communicate to us by their cries, their helplessness, their beauty and the peacefulness of their sleep. Infants speak to our hearts and evoke our love and tenderness.

Though he was the eternal Word of God, Jesus, the Son of God, came to us as an infant for he would not overawe us by his majesty nor overwhelm us by his almighty power. As a helpless infant he appeals for our love, which must be freely given. If we open our hearts to him, the Prince of Peace, he will take possession of them and give peace to his people on earth.

Pray a decade of the Rosary reflecting on the joy and peace we feel because of Jesus' birth.

A WORD FROM FATHER WILLY RAYMOND, C.S.C.

Advent is a time of great hope, joy and expectation, a time of gratitude to God for coming among us in a manner that allows us to get to know him, at least partially. May this Good God continue to bless you and your loved ones with his peace and joy this holy season of Advent.



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Sarah writes at SnoringScholar.com in the midst of rural farm life with little ones underfoot. She is the editor of the best-selling devotional Word by Word: Slowing Down with the Hail Mary, as well as the author of a number of books including A Catholic Mother's Companion to Pregnancy: Walking with Mary from Conception to Baptism, the first in the CatholicMom.com books, and Catholic Family Fun: A Guide for the Adventurous, Overwhelmed, Creative, or Clueless.



BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER

We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Continue to pray with your family every day, wherever you are.

For additional online resources for family prayer including a Prayer Petition Page and our World at Prayer Blog, please visit our website at www.FamilyRosary.org.

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.*"

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