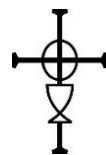


# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## December 20, 2020



**St. Leonard**  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Thank you for completing this journey with us! We hope that these Advent prayer guides have helped you to connect with our Saint Leonard community and to prepare your heart for Christ's coming this Christmas. Let us continue to pray for one another!

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## Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

*This week's reflection was composed by Carol Sexton.*

*The fourth Sunday of Advent focuses on the "Lord of peace" who came to us in the form of a baby through his mother Mary.*

Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know all that your baby boy would do and be?

When Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel, her faith was breathtakingly bright and strong as she responded after only a few questions:

"Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done according to your will."



Mary's peace with what God asks of her is inspiring. Her acceptance of an uncertain future as the mother of Jesus is for us a strong example of belief in God. Mary does not fear: she relies on her faith as she prepares for Christ's birth. She does not complain; she lives, she loves, she waits with grace.

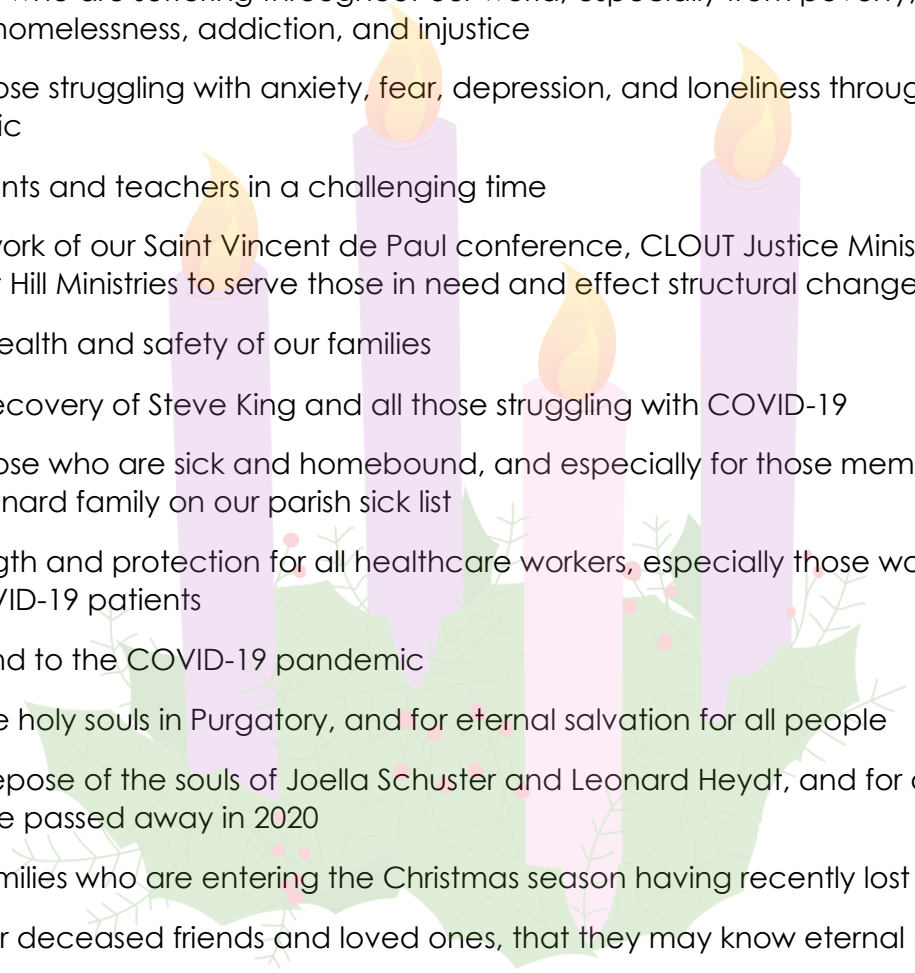
Mary visited Elizabeth, she traveled to Bethlehem, she waited and prepared with goodwill and in serenity for the arrival of Jesus. Mary is surely someone for us to emulate. I often look to Mary's faith example and her real-life suffering as a pathway to prayer and deeper understanding in my own life. Her faith sustained her. Mary would understand and get our questions along with our fear during the suffering and uncertainty of 2020.

"Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee..." Our Lord is also with **us**. Like Mary, let us strive to place our trust in God. We can, as Mary did, wait and prepare during the holy season of Advent. We can wait and prepare for Christmas with prayer; with faith; with an open, giving heart; with kind words; with gracious gestures; and through reading Scripture. Jesus brings with his birth peace and hope to our world, our hearts, and our homes, "because nothing is impossible with God."

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# Prayer Intentions from our Parish Community

Throughout this fourth week of Advent, let us pray...

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- For our Church
  - For world leaders, that they will work to bring about peace
  - For those who are suffering throughout our world, especially from poverty, violence, hunger, homelessness, addiction, and injustice
  - For all those struggling with anxiety, fear, depression, and loneliness throughout this pandemic
  - For students and teachers in a challenging time
  - For the work of our Saint Vincent de Paul conference, CLOUT Justice Ministry, and United Crescent Hill Ministries to serve those in need and effect structural change
  - For the health and safety of our families
  - For the recovery of Steve King and all those struggling with COVID-19
  - For all those who are sick and homebound, and especially for those members of the Saint Leonard family on our parish sick list
  - For strength and protection for all healthcare workers, especially those working directly with COVID-19 patients
  - For an end to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - For all the holy souls in Purgatory, and for eternal salvation for all people
  - For the repose of the souls of Joella Schuster and Leonard Heydt, and for all parishioners who have passed away in 2020
  - For all families who are entering the Christmas season having recently lost a loved one
  - For all our deceased friends and loved ones, that they may know eternal peace
  - For all who have asked us to pray for them
  - For those special intentions that we hold close to our hearts
  - For Saint Leonard Parish, that we may remain faithful to our Christ-centered mission of prayer, worship, service, and welcome

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Let us continue to keep one another in prayer through the Christmas season and beyond! With love from the Saint Leonard Worship Committee,

*Katie Garbarino (Chair), Deacon Ralph Bartley, Mike Gandolfo, Jo-Dee Jackson, Ashley Logsdon, Father Lou Meiman, Patti Nash, Carol Sexton, and Barbara Trompeter*