

# Joy is on the Way

ADVENT WITH POPE FRANCIS ◦ FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT 2022

with reflections by Janet Schaeffler, OP

**SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**27**

“God’s simplicity tells you: go forward, I am a Father who caresses you.” (Pope Francis, 12/10/13) Advent can be a busy time in our lives. Pope Francis and the readings of the season call us not to be busy, but to be *profitably* busy so we stay awake to the close presence of God.

**Meditative Musing:** How will you be profitably busy this Advent—a slowing down for prayer, a closer attention to the people in your life, an awareness of those in our world who are lonely and suffering, an action to reach out to someone whom you might know?



**MONDAY**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**28**

During these Advent days we often hear: here are more things to purchase in order to be happy, to show someone you love them, to have the best decorated home, to give the best party. In *On Care for Our Common Home* (#144), Pope Francis reminds us that a consumerist view can diminish the wonder of humanity. What would an “enough Christmas” look like? Spending somewhat less than last year? Putting a limit on the amount of time spent shopping during the rest of this month? Evaluating your Christmas traditions and deleting one(s) that may no longer be meaningful? Reaching out to those who are lonely, needy, grieving?

**Prayerful Practice:** Use the prayerful affirmation, “I have enough” for reflection throughout the day. Take time to make one resolution which will help you have an “enough Christmas.”



**TUESDAY**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**29**

Waiting is a reality of life. As Christians, our hearts are immersed in waiting during the Advent season. “[W]atching is the virtue, the attitude, of pilgrims. We are pilgrims. Are we watching or are we closed? Are we vigilant or are we safe and secure in an inn, no longer wanting to continue on? Are we pilgrims or are we wandering?” (Pope Francis, December 23, 2013)

**Meditative Musing:** In prayer today, draw a map of your life. Are you in a secure location or are you on the way? Are you in a secure inn or on a pilgrim journey – always ready to look for God in new places, in new ways?

**WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER  
30**

The 13th century mystic, Meister Eckhart, said, “What good is it to me if the eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to the Son of God if I do not also give birth to Him in my time and my culture?” Pope Francis commented, “Do we think that Jesus’ Incarnation is simply a past event which has nothing to do with us personally? Believing in Jesus means giving him our flesh with the humility and courage of Mary, so that he can continue to dwell in our midst.” (10/18/13)

**Prayerful Practice:** Place on your desk/nightstand, a picture of Jesus next to a picture of yourself. Reflect on how you bring Jesus to dwell in your world.



**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER  
1**

Pope Francis calls for “a bold cultural revolution ... we do need to slow down and look at reality in a different way.” (*On Care for Our Common Home*, #114) Pope Francis affirms that a different way includes rejoicing in the positive steps we have already taken as well as recovering the values which might have gotten lost as we’ve been surrounded by delusions of grandeur. This challenge might seem massive; yet it begins with small steps in our everyday lives.



**Meditative Musing:** As you look at your plans for gift-giving and celebrations, are they extravagances of grandeur or a witness to the simplicity of Jesus?

**FRIDAY  
DECEMBER  
2**

In the northern hemisphere, Advent occurs at the darkest time of the year. The celebration of light occurs within darkness, perhaps within dark moments of our lives. Pope Francis reminds us that this is the symbol we use for Jesus’ gift to us: light. Those who believe see with a light that illumines their whole lives because the light comes from Jesus. (*The Light of Faith*, #1)

**Prayerful Practice:** Go for a walk around your neighborhood to view and appreciate the Christmas lights. Think of the ways Jesus has been light in your life.

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER  
3**

Pope Francis, as the church always has, reminds us that Advent celebrates the three comings of the Lord—his physical birth, at the end of time, and his coming to us each day. (12/21/15)

**Prayerful Practice:** Share with someone today where and how you find God in your everyday life.