

# Mission Educators Bulletin Connecting us in Mission

St. Cloud Mission Office

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[www.stcloudmissionoffice.com](http://www.stcloudmissionoffice.com)

## The True Meaning of Christmas

Sitting down to write my final bulletin for 2024, my first thought of course was, where did the time go, this year went so incredibly fast? My second thought was, in just a few short weeks, I get to start over again, we all do...Of course this next year will, in no doubt bring some of the same events as years past such as, work, school, happy times and sad times, life, death etc...but what will be new in my life, what adventures does Jesus have in store for me I wonder? This was followed quickly with... whatever that may be, I need to get ready for it. This is my absolute favorite time of year, but I also know it always comes with work to do.

As Catholic's, the seasonal preparations & celebrations start on December 1<sup>st</sup>, with the first Sunday of Advent. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be preparing ourselves and our homes for the arrival of Jesus. Many of us will bake and shop, wrap gifts, clean and bake some more, but, more importantly... spiritually, we will all start by allowing for some extra time each day to reflect on the absolute peace, love, joy and hope that comes simply with the birth of a baby. No one knew Jesus yet & they had no idea of the strength of His love. During this season, we reflect on what Jesus's life and all of His experiences while physically here on earth, did for us. The lessons He taught & shared with His disciples and others around Him .... how to live...how to love ...how to forgive, how to just "be" in all the moments of life and to truly have **faith** in Him.

Then, we pray, and our minds, bodies and souls slowly get reenergized. A renewal of our faith and our love for Jesus by remembering the importance of **faith, trust & hope** ...just in time for His birthday celebration. The life He wants and has in store for us starts to become clearer. This is what we are doing during Advent. We are getting prepared for His coming and for whatever God has in store for us, putting in some work and we finding peace in that, even when we have no idea what's in store for us yet.

From All of us at the St. Cloud Mission Office,

We wish you all a very Blessed Advent & Christmas Season ~

### Prayer & Activity

*Loving God, as we enter this season of preparation, guide us deeper into the meaning and reality of hope in a world plagued by anxiety. Fashion us into pilgrims of hope for others that calm the fear and inspire courage to love boldly. Amen.*

*This year, when thinking about donating to a local food shelf, think about the things we need to "make" a meal complete.... I have heard many times now in the last few weeks... the need is so great for all food items and anything and everything is appreciated ...but, without butter and milk, there are no mashed potatoes....Salt & Pepper for seasoning the Turkey, oil for cooking the rice ~ Maybe starting a drive specifically for those types of food items.*

Maryknoll has great reflection guide Advent 2024  
[www.maryknoll.us/Resources/2024-advent?utm](http://www.maryknoll.us/Resources/2024-advent?utm)

### Words of Wisdom:

"My prayer for you is that when Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heart full of love, like that of a simple shepherd who was the first one chosen to see Christ." "

~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

### St. Cloud Mission Office

#### Advent & Christmas Sale

Dec 2nd ~ 19th 2024

Monday ~ Thursday

8am-4pm

10% off All Items



### Don't Forget:

Dec 1st ~ First Sunday of Advent

Dec 3rd ~ National Day of Giving

Dec 6th ~ St. Nicholas Day

Dec 8th ~ Immaculate Conception

Dec 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec 21st Ceremony of Carols ~St. Mary's Cathedral @ 2pm or 7:30pm

Dec 24th Christmas Eve

Dec 25th Christmas Day