



DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song
Tuesday	Luke 1:57-66	The birth of John the Baptist
Wednesday	Luke 1:67-80	Zechariah's song
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-7	To us a child is born
Friday	Titus 2:11-14	God's grace has appeared
Saturday	Luke 2:1-7	The birth of Jesus
Sunday	Luke 2:8-20	Angels appear to shepherds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." **Luke 1:38 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, we are your servants. Make us ready to accept your plans for us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come to our table.
Come into our hearts. Fill us with your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be with you. May God's favor rest on you and the Holy Spirit come to you. Amen.



CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How do you think Mary felt when the angel Gabriel appeared to her?
- Mary was given some amazing news that would change her life forever. How do you think you would have responded?
- Have you ever felt challenged by God to do something difficult?
- Read Luke 1:38. What can we learn from Mary's response?

DEVOTIONS:

In your home devotion times in the days remaining before Christmas, light all four blue or purple candles on your household Advent wreath and use the following liturgy:

Leader: "In the fourth week of Advent we light four candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. We are getting ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, who is love."

On each day before Christmas Day, have a different household member read a bible passage about love: Psalm 36:5, 1 John 4:7, 1 John 4:9, John 3:16. Talk about the passage. Then, form a circle by joining hands around the candles and conclude with these words:

Leader: "Our household is a circle that is held together by God's love."
Response: "Come, Lord Jesus, and fill us with your love. Amen."

On Christmas Day, light the white center candle. Read Luke 2:1-7 and say together with joy the words of the angels from Luke 2:14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

SERVICE:

Plan to visit a person who is homebound or in a nursing home on Christmas Day. Prepare a gift to bring them and sing a Christmas carol to them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Place figures from a Christmas nativity set (e.g. wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, animals) throughout your home. During this week, move them closer to the manger. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and wise men. Last of all, place Jesus in the manger (on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day).