

AN ADVENT EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE



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Introduction

How might we prepare the way of the Lord?

n this season of light and love, we prepare our hearts and homes for the miracle of the Incarnation—God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ. While we prepare to celebrate the birth of the babe in the manger, the season of Advent also calls us to "make straight the paths" in our lives so that we may repent and repair the damage done through our own sinfulness. May this booklet be your guide as you prepare to experience the sacrament of reconciliation in this holy season. The questions are written for private reflection and prayer or they may be of help in a parish reconciliation service.

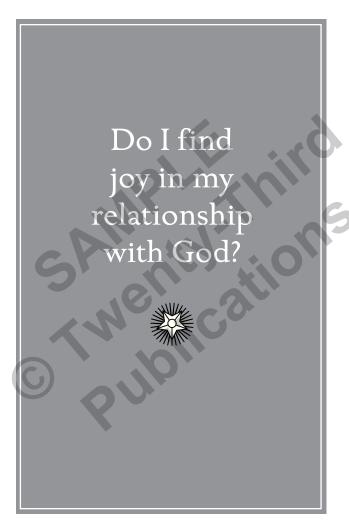
Opening prayer

God of all ages, we rejoice and give thanks that in your divinity you came among us as a human being, taking upon yourself all the human elements that we share with you: the salt of our tears, the sweetness of our joys, the deepest hopes of our dreams, the human longings that give meaning to our lives.

Inhabit our hearts, God of love,
as you embodied and entered this world
through the womb of your mother,
Mary.

Be here among us with all of your wisdom, all of your compassion, and all of your joy.

In the name of Jesus who is Christ, the Son of God, who lives among us still and who will come again. Amen.



Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid..."

MATTHEW 1:20

Am I close to God, or do I have trouble seeing God in my life?

Do I try to convince God through prayer to give me what I want?

Can I enter into a relationship with God, trusting that God can work through me?

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon [you]:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength...

ISAIAH 11:2

Can I be sure in my trust in God?

Can I embrace the joy of the Holy Spirit within me while also carrying the troubles in my life at this moment?

Do I remember to call upon and give thanks and praise to God, who is the source and sustainer of my life?