

Joyfully,  
We  
Wait

AN ADVENT  
EXAMINATION OF  
CONSCIENCE



**TWENTY-THIRD  
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**TWENTY-THIRD PUBLICATIONS**

One Montauk Avenue, Suite 200

New London, CT 06320

(860) 437-3012 or (800) 321-0411

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

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ISBN: 978-1-62785-465-8

Printed in the U.S.A.



A division of Bayard, Inc.

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## Introduction

*How might we prepare  
the way of the Lord?*

In 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.*

Do I find  
joy in my  
relationship  
with God?



*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?

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

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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?

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

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