

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father:**

**Concluding Prayer for Advent**

God of tender mercy; guide us along the way of your peace so this Advent may lead us to the Christ child's manger. Help us to discover your presence in our lives so that we might more readily respond to the Spirit speaking in our hearts. Encourage us as we reach out to serve you in the needy and the least of our brothers and sisters. Give us hope for the coming of your Kingdom in all its fullness. May we become like the angels of old, heralds of the Good News of salvation.

**In your Sons precious name we pray.**

**Amen**



## **Alive in the Spirit**

**Dec. 2007 Staff/ Principals Mtg.**

**Opening Prayer/Liturgy**

*Opening Song*

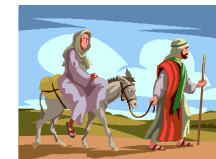
*Joy to the World*

Joy to The world! the Lord has come:  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat  
the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove The glories of His  
righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And  
wonder, wonders of His love.

G.F.Handel



## *General Intercessions*

### **Gathering Prayer**

Lord Jesus. We begin this special time of year once again in the joy and hope of your coming into our world and into our hearts. As we now take time to celebrate this special season with you, we ask you to bless each one of us with your presence, guide us in our journey and lead us all home to be with you one day. We ask this in your precious name. **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading Galatians 4:4-6**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born of the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because we are the children, God sent his Son into our hearts, crying Abba! Father”

### **The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Reflection: The True Joy of Season**

True joy is a gift and by product of something else. If we want to fully experience joy, we don't seek it. Rather, we seek Jesus, the one who gives the joy that flows freely from a faithful relationship with Him.

A faithful relationship with Jesus grows stronger when we recognize that we have been ransomed by Him and that we are returning home to our spiritual Zion, a return that brings the heartfelt singing, joy and gladness He has promised.

**RESPONSE: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You sent Jesus to be a sign of your unlimited and unbroken love. May this Advent season help us to accept not just our own weakness and failings, but the faith, hope and love you are constantly offering us. We pray to the Lord.

**(Response)**

Lord Jesus, during the season of preparation, we have tried to look for true satisfaction in your Kingdom, not the things of this world. As we begin to celebrate your coming into this world, help us to cherish the good things of this life as we look forward to your coming among us again. We pray to the Lord.

**(Response)**

Lord Jesus, all of our Catholic community is united in our expectation and hope of your coming. Grant that we all might draw strength in our common celebration of Christmas and that it may bring us a step closer to the complete unity of your followers that you desire. We pray to the Lord.

**(Response)**



