



St. Leonard
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13, 2020

We are so glad that you are journeying along with us toward Christmas! As we light the third – and pink! – candle of our Advent wreathes this week, we are filled with an extra sense of joy and anticipation. Let us pray for one another and our world as we prepare for Christ's birth.

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent

This week's reflection was composed by Jo-Dee Jackson.

My grandson Carter's other grandma, Laurie, phoned in late November 2019 asking if I would host dinner to celebrate the holidays. I said, "sure," but immediately started to resent one more thing to do right before Christmas. I got over myself, though, and asked God to forgive my selfishness and open my heart.



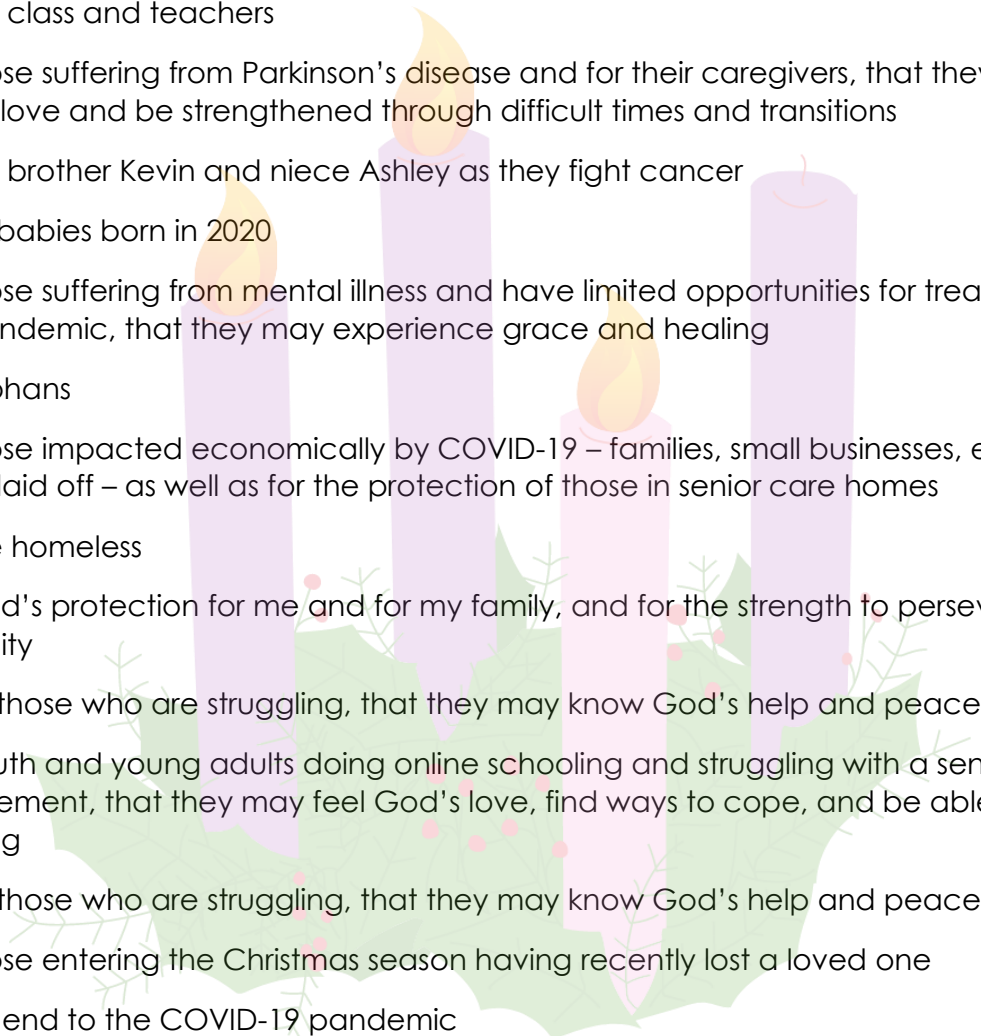
Fast forward to December 22, which happened to be the last Sunday of Advent and the first day of Hanukkah. Carter's Grandma Laurie and her family are Jewish, and Carter has celebrated several Jewish traditions with their family. All four candles on our Advent wreath were burning bright, and I couldn't stop thinking about the first day of Hanukkah. I thought about the times Carter had been included in Grandma Laurie's Jewish rituals at their home. I thought, "how I wish I had asked her to bring the Menorah!"

When the family arrived, I mentioned the Menorah – Laurie's face lit up, and she returned home to retrieve it. Grandma Laurie and family recited the day 1 prayers over the Menorah, and we said our Sunday week 4 prayer. It was a moment of pure joy between our two families. God's abundant grace filled our home with love that evening, and we became one, in unity, as God calls us to be. Amazing how God worked to prepare my heart to receive his coming on Christmas Day!

Prayer Intentions from our Parish Community

Throughout this third of Advent, let us pray...

- For people who are feeling lonely and disconnected
- For the recovery of Steve King
- For peace and hope in our country and in our world

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- For my friend Janet to be healed after her cancer treatments
 - For our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to be safe and healthy, and to grow in their faith
 - For the healing of my grandson, and that his heart and mind might follow Jesus
 - For my class and teachers
 - For those suffering from Parkinson's disease and for their caregivers, that they may feel God's love and be strengthened through difficult times and transitions
 - For my brother Kevin and niece Ashley as they fight cancer
 - For all babies born in 2020
 - For those suffering from mental illness and have limited opportunities for treatment during this pandemic, that they may experience grace and healing
 - For orphans
 - For those impacted economically by COVID-19 – families, small businesses, employees being laid off – as well as for the protection of those in senior care homes
 - For the homeless
 - For God's protection for me and for my family, and for the strength to persevere in adversity
 - For all those who are struggling, that they may know God's help and peace
 - For youth and young adults doing online schooling and struggling with a sense of confinement, that they may feel God's love, find ways to cope, and be able to continue learning
 - For all those who are struggling, that they may know God's help and peace
 - For those entering the Christmas season having recently lost a loved one
 - For an end to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - For the safety of all medical workers, especially those caring for COVID-19 patients
 - For the sick, especially those with COVID-19, and for all of those on our parish sick list, that they may experience healing and God's loving presence
 - For our deceased friends and loved ones, that they may know eternal peace

Let us continue to keep one another in prayer throughout this Advent season! With love from the Saint Leonard Worship Committee,

Katie Garbarino (Chair), Deacon Ralph Bartley, Mike Gandolfo, Jo-Dee Jackson, Ashley Logsdon, Father Lou Meiman, Patti Nash, Carol Sexton, and Barbara Trompeter