

*The Word became flesh,
so that we may know God's love*



As a token of our love and gratitude in this holy season, we enfold you in our prayers. You and your intentions are sharing in our

Novenas to the
Immaculate Conception
Christmas
St. Arnold Janssen

Join us in the Eucharistic celebration
of our Savior's Birth on

Christmas Eve - 8:00 PM
Christmas Day - 7:00 AM
11:00 AM

*Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for Mary
has brought forth the Savior of the world;
true peace has come down from heaven*

Christmas Joy and Blessings to you!
Gratefully in our Eucharistic Emmanuel,
Sister Mary Catherine and Sisters

Advent

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary.
And on one night when a great star swings free
From its high mooring and walks down the sky
to be the dot above the Christus *i*,
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,
with hope's expectance of nativity.

I knew for long she carried me and fed me,
Guarded and loved me, though I could not see.
But only now, with inward jubilee,
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
someone is hidden in this dark with me.

-Jessica Powers



A Time For Coming and Doing

No one likes to just sit around and wait. A waste of time; so boring. It is like watching the snow melt or flowers wilt. Yet a son will wait with great expectation for the return of his soldier-father from Afghanistan. A daughter will wait with joyful longing and fervent preparation for the wedding celebration of her life. The value of waiting depends on what one is waiting for. If it is something or someone good, it is positive time. No one stands around waiting for the bad!

From December 1 to December 24 the Church takes up its annual waiting posture. We call it the season of Advent, the "Waiting Season". But, it is clear that the four weeks of Advent are not intended to be spent in waiting passively for Jesus to come. The Advent-time attitude is not: "Just hang on and you'll make it to Christmas!" Rather it is: "Get up and prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas! After all, unlike the gray season of penitential Lent, Advent is a time of joyful expectation and preparation for the coming of the Lord -- both at this



"...Through her the Word was made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14). Thus it is Mary who tells us what Advent is: going forth to meet the Lord who comes to meet us; waiting for him, listening to him, looking at him. Mary tells us why church buildings exist: they exist so that room may be made within us for the Word of God; so that within us and through us the Word may also be made flesh today..

-Pope Benedict XVI-

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Christmas in 2013, when Jesus' first coming will again be remembered and celebrated, but also for his coming on that undated final day when he will return in all his glory.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin verb *advenire* which means *to come*. Advent, therefore, might also be called "The Coming Season". If the Lord comes closer to me in Advent, then I should also make it a point to go out to meet him. You see, the Advent movement is two-fold. Jesus comes toward me; I move toward him. It is that mutual coming that leads to a joyous Christmas encounter: the Lord with me and I with him! Be prepared. He is coming. Go out to meet him!

Here at Mount Grace Advent will be a season marked by fervent prayer and adoration. The Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours will be celebrated with the richness of the Church's Advent liturgy. The time each Adoration Sister spends daily before the Blessed Sacrament will be her time of "going out" to meet the Lord with renewed fervor and joy.

How will you spend Advent? Will you go out of the ordinary, the quotidian, to meet the Lord anew? Perhaps, you will decide to read and ponder the Advent gospel passage used at Mass each day. Try doing it with the family and see what happens. The opening prayer at Mass might also be a source of inspiration and get you moving closer to the Lord. Gift yourself each day with a few moments spent in quiet prayer. Reflect on how the coming of the Lord has already affected your life and that of your loved ones. Reflect also on what you still need to do in preparation for the Savior's coming anew. Don't put it off! Don't just wait for Christmas. Advent is a time for coming and doing!

Advent blessings upon you!

*Fr. Thomas A. Krosnicki, SVD
Mount Grace Chaplain*



As an agriculturist she knows well that a seed will thrive only in the right soil. Discerning with her spiritual guide, she realized her need to be transplanted.

Two months later, our cloister door in Baguio, Philippines, opened to receive the new aspirant. There she easily took root and waxed strong, pronouncing her first vows in November 1988 as also the succeeding ones, including final vows in 1993. Beginning in October 1999, she had more transplantings in American soil: Texas first, Nebraska next, then to St. Louis in 2008.

"Bloom where you are planted" aptly applies to how she had adjusted well at every move. And why not? ... for one whose favorite Scripture passage is the beloved disciple's proclamation of the good news: *"It is the Lord"* (cf Jn 21:7).



Green thumb and red blooms



Shared Joy, Double Joy Diamond and Silver Jubilees in October

SR. REGINA MARIE was in a retreat before profession of vows in an active Order in January 1986 when she heard the words: *"You do not belong here."* Without a second thought, she took leave of the Sisters she had come to love, and returned home.

Reflecting on her religious vocation, **SR. M. REINHILDE** recalls becoming aware of the Lord's call following a mission she had attended in her parish in Riesenbeck, Germany. At that time her mother was a volunteer local distributor of the magazine *Stadt Gottes*, a publication of the Divine Word Missionaries founded by St. Arnold Janssen. Spurred on by her mother's zeal in fulfilling the demanding task, she longed also to help spread God's kingdom in the world. She first considered an active missionary Order but the thought of having to learn a foreign language gave her pause.

In the *Stadt Gottes* she read about the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters in Steyl, Holland. Perhaps even greater than perpetual Eucharistic adoration, it was their special devotion to the Holy Spirit which won her heart. Due to the difficulty in obtaining a visa to Holland during those postwar years, she was referred to our convent in Bad Driburg, Germany, where she was initiated into the religious life in November 1950 and where she made perpetual vows.

On board a steamer in 1962, Sr. Mary Reinhilde crossed the Atlantic for her new assignment -- right here at Mount Grace.

Over the years she has been assigned to our other houses in the U.S., taking on various tasks as needed, and mastering the English language in the process. Her chief domain though was always the kitchen. One is reminded of Pope Francis who, on hearing the compliment that he was a good chef, replied: *"Well, nobody has died yet from my cooking"* ("Pray For Me", R. Moynihan, IMAGE p. 148).



Her well being at age 91 can attest to her healthful cooking. She drives her walker while praying the Stations of the Cross as determinedly as she applies herself to her mission of advancing God's kingdom on earth by the silent witness of her faith and confidence in Him to whom she had given her total YES. Asked what has been her greatest joy through sixty-plus years of religious life, she responded unhesitatingly: *"Everyday with the Lord!"*



Just between friends



Four hands ... and more



Super Bowl

