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November 2012

An Advent Journey

*They are coming! Oh, dear Lord, like the Wisemen wandering toward the stable,
visitors are heading to my house.*

Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent

(Book) Rohr, Richard, Franciscan Media, 2012. Richard Rohr's Scriptural reflections for Advent are the perfect preparation for the Christmas season. Provides daily reflections for the Advent season, along with each day's Scripture readings and questions for reflection. (S,A)

Advent Light (Book) Binz, Stephen J., Twenty-Third Publications, 2004. Advent is a time for new understanding, for putting different pieces of God's revelation together to see the divine plan more clearly. We listen to the words of ancient prophets, to the wisdom of Jesus, and we make connections. Then we connect those truths to our own lives and our world and see how God is acting anew. (S,A)

Rediscover Advent (Book) Kelly, Matthew, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2011. Each day you will find a brief citation from one of the lectionary readings for the day, a reflection on some aspect of Catholic faith and practice taken from Kelly's bestselling book "Rediscover Catholicism," one or two questions for meditation, and a brief prayer. These timely and inspirational words will help renew your enthusiasm for being Catholic, while encouraging you to delve more deeply into the spirituality of the Advent season. Designed for individual reading or for group study. (S,A)

An Advent and Christmas Journey (DVD, 25 min. each program) Himes, Michael, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2005. Popular speaker and professor Father Michael Himes provides an in-depth look at the spirituality and theology of the season of Advent and Christmas. This set contains five programs: "Advent I: Hope in the Darkness"; "Advent II: The Second Coming and the Kingdom of God"; "Advent III: Threatened by Grace"; "Advent IV: Prophets: John, Mary, Joseph"; and "Advent V: Christmas: The Eternal Giving of God." An excellent series for adult faith formation, small group discussions, and sermon preparation. (S,A)

The Angel's Advent Lesson (DVD, 11 min.) Costello, Gwen, Twenty Third Publications, 2008. Danny's Guardian Angel appears to him to help him remember the real meaning of Christmas. They discuss the Advent wreath, reciting prayers, doing kind acts and recalling Scripture characters in Advent. (P,I)

Advent with the Saints: Daily

Reflections (Book) Friedman, Greg St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2011. Insightful reflections connect the reader to the lives of the saints and holy ones suggested by the Scriptural readings of Advent. Fr. Greg draws on his love for the saints to offer daily inspiration during this season of preparation. Find brief reflections on each Advent lectionary reading, saintly connections to each reading, suggested actions for each day, and prayers to help you slow down and savor the season of waiting and hope. (A)

A Catholic Family Advent (Book) Hines-Brigger, Susan, Franciscan Media, 2012. This daily source of inspiration can be used in the family setting as prayer before or after meals, as morning and evening prayer, or as family time in front of the Advent wreath or Christmas crèche. An entry for each day of Advent offers a Scripture for reflection, a short meditation, a fresh idea for an easy family activity, and a short prayer. (A)

Advent and Christmas with the Church Fathers (Book) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010. These selections from the writings of the Fathers of the Church provide prayerful meditations for Advent and Christmas. This daily companion will help readers prepare for and celebrate the Birth of Christ by reflecting on the teaching of some of the Church's greatest teachers. (A)

Celebrating the Seasons: Advent and Lent (DVD, 15 min.) St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2001. The custom of the Advent wreath is the focus of this video. In the light of the Advent wreath, we remember, live and hope for the one who has already come. We warm our hearts to live justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God. The simple Advent wreath tells the story of a people yesterday and today who yearn for more light in their life. This program also includes other Advent activities and traditions such as the Jesse Tree, an Advent Friend, Straw for a Crib and an Advent House to help young people appreciate the spiritual dimension of the Advent and Christmas season. (I,J)



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Check Out What's New

Answers about Saint Joseph (Book) Toschi, Larry M., Liguori Publications, 2011. This engaging question-and-answer format presents a fascinating collection of facts, insights, observations, and reflections. Saint Joseph is more than a carpenter and a figure in a Nativity set. He has much to teach us about integrity, strength, faith, and humility. (S,A)

50 Prayer Services for Middle Schoolers: For Every Season of the Church Year and More (Book) Clark, Connie, Twenty-Third Publications, 2012. Here are prayer services for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. They're not for little kids or young adults. Using language, ideas, and formats familiar to 'tweens, these prayers introduce methods like meditation, litanies, intercessions, novenas, and even lectio divina. (A)

Fostering Children's Faith: A Privilege and A Responsibility (Book) Hall, Jeanne, Resource Publications, 2012. Intended to be an accessible and helpful resource for parents and other adults who seek to foster children's faith. This book succinctly explores many ways we can support children's faith formation, including our day-to-day interactions with children, the images of God we share with them, how we pray together, the rituals we create, service opportunities we provide, music we share together, the stories we tell and listen to, our celebration of the sacraments, and more. (A)

Forming Intentional Disciples: Path to Know and Follow Jesus (Book) Weddell, Sherry A., Our Sunday Visitor, 2012. Designed to help Church leaders, parish staff and all Catholics transform parish life from within. Learn about the five thresholds of postmodern conversion, how to open a conversation about faith and belief, how to ask thought-provoking questions and establish an atmosphere of trust, when to tell the Great Story of Jesus, how to help someone respond to God's call to intentional discipleship, and much more. (A)

Cosmic Origins: The Scientific Evidence for Creation (DVD, 49 min.) Ignatius Press, 2012. Cosmic Origins explains what we know about the beginning and nature of the universe, as well as its transcendent implications in clear, easy-to-understand terms. The film weaves together a compelling narrative from academics and credentialed scientists pointing toward a very Christian understanding of how the universe came to exist. Expertly conveys a vital and important message for everyone - our Christian faith is not disproven by modern science, but rather corroborated by it. (A)

And the Two Shall Become One: Proclaiming and Defending the Church's Teaching on Marriage (DVD, 75 min.) In this two talk series Dr. Tom Curran gives a clear understanding of the Church's teaching on authentic marriage as well as homosexuality. He explores what is at stake in our homes, our communities and our nation at this critical time. Learn about the issues, gain a full understanding of the Church's teaching, and be inspired to stand for what you believe in as a Catholic in this culture. (A)

Ten: How the Commandments can Change your Life (Book) Sperry, Mary Elizabeth, Franciscan Media, 2012. The Commandments teach us the habits we need to live in right relationship with God, self, others, and things, such as: creating priorities, giving respect, recognizing dignity, living gratitude, and upholding honesty and fidelity. Shows us how the Commandments give us the tools to lead a balanced life full and love of true joy. (A)

Aspects of the Heart: The Many Paths to a Good Life (Book) Chittister, Joan, Twenty-Third Publications, 2012. Sr. Joan looks at 50 "aspects," all of which in some way can fill our hearts and our lives. Each brief chapter offers abundant food for reflection and prayer, and each offers an opportunity to become persons who "produce good from the treasure of the heart" (Luke 6:45). (A)

Catholic and Confident: Simple Steps to Share your Faith (Book) Libersat, Henry, Servant Books, 2012. Helps you embrace the call to spread the message of salvation to everyone in your life. Real-life examples of Catholics: a plumber who prays for his clients, an attorney who stuns his coworkers with the truth about the Church-show you it can be done. You don't have to be a saint or a sermonizer, you just need a little confidence. (S,A)

Seek First the Kingdom: Challenging the Culture by Living our Faith (Book) Wuerl, Donald Cardinal, Our Sunday Visitor Pub., 2012. Lays out a solid foundation for understanding the roots of Catholic laity's participation in the public arena, providing the tools you need to become an insightful ambassador for the kingdom of God. The heart of Seek First the Kingdom is a masterful survey of the teachings of the Scriptures, theology, and Tradition on citizenship in the Kingdom of God. (A)

For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada (DVD, 150 min.) Anderson Merchandisers, 2012. Based on the true story of the 1920s Cristero War, an impassioned group of men and women risk everything for family, faith and the very future of their country. The revolt by these daring people against the atheistic Mexican government rocked 20th Century North America. A-III -- adults.

God is Bigger than Elvis (DVD, 36 min.) HBO Documentary Films, 2012. Tells the story of a one-of-a-kind abbey in rural Connecticut -- and offers a rare glimpse inside the spiritual journey of a onetime Hollywood movie star (Delores Hart) who left showbiz behind 50 years ago to become a Benedictine nun. (S,A)

October Baby (DVD, 109 min.) distributed by Provident Distribution, 2012. 'As the curtain rises, Hannah steps onto the stage--only to collapse moments later. Countless medical tests all point to one underlying factor: Hannah's difficult birth. The doctor's diagnosis is nothing compared to her parents' revelation: Hannah was adopted--after a failed abortion attempt. Bewildered, angered, and confused, Hannah embarks on an incredible journey with Jason, her oldest friend. As she searches to discover her hidden past and find hope for her unknown future, Hannah realizes life can be so much more than you've planned"--Container. A-II--adults and adolescents.