

ADVENT

'Christmas. Carols fill the airwaves. New, elaborate decoration pop up on streets, in shopping centers and around people's homes. At Mass we sing, "O come. O come, Emmanuel," we put aside the Gloria, and we light Advent Candles.

For some of us, Christmas evokes warm memories. For others of us it brings some degree of anxiety with financial and family concerns.

No matter how we feel, one thing is sure: we can grow closer to God this Advent. God has gifts of hope, renewal, and joy to give us; He wants to help us celebrate with Him. The first Christmas changed the lives of people like Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, and the Wise Men. Our lives can be changed too.

So let's begin our own Advent journey of faith. Let our hearts and minds be opened through silent prayer and reflection.' adapted from [the Word Among Us](#)

To assist us in our "Advent Journey"

- Take home some Advent reading from the table at the Church Entrance
- Check out the online Resources
 - Formed.org search:Advent
 - <https://dynamiccatholic.com>
 - www.facebook.com/BishopRobertBarronolic.org
 - <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/>
- Dec. 3rd – Vigil Project Advent Mission Project at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Binghamton
- 7-8:30PM. Free admission. For more information see www.thevigilproject.com.
- Dec. 5th our local Ecumenical Service at Killawog Methodist Church at 7PM. Bring a bell to use while everyone joins into the last hymn.
- St. Mary's in Cortland will have an hour of adoration on Dec. 4th, 11th, and 18th from
- 6:30 – 7:30PM. This will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, evening prayer and a short reflection
- December 13th The Star of Bethlehem movie and Christmas Music at the Kopernik Observatory in Binghamton. This movie unlocks the mystery of what the Wise Men saw in the night sky, relating scientific knowledge about astronomy and historical clues from the Bible. Doors open at 6PM, concert 6:30PM and movie at 7PM. \$5 per adult, maximum \$16 for a family.
- Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 18th, 7 PM at our Whitney Point Church.

May you have a joyful Advent Journey!