



**1st Reading:** 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16  
**Responsorial Psalm:** PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
**Second Reading:** ROM 16:25-27  
**Gospel:** LK 1:26-38

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Last week we lit the candle of Joy and this week, we experience even a deeper joy as we hear wonderful exchange between Mary and the angel Gabriel. We are left with a sense of peace as Mary responds, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." This is known as Mary's fiat (the word fiat means "let it be done"). This sense of peace does not always come easily as it requires surrender and trust. Mary's story is now our story. We've heard the good news of the Messiah's coming and we aren't sure how this good news can take shape in our lives. But, God waits with us—that's an important part of the good news. So where does Christ arrive? Where does Advent take place? Where does God's new life happen? God comes to us in the mess and waits with us. And what exactly is God waiting for? God is waiting for us to pray with Mary, "Be it done to me according to your word." Then we can begin to see how God is already at work transforming chaos into new life. God comes to us in the disorder of this world and gives us a chance to receive new life—profound life, mysterious life, re-created life, eternal life...a life of peace. This week, pray the words of Mary: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." Find the peace that God provides when we surrender to God's will.

### Lighting the Fourth Candle of Advent: PEACE!!

2 Thessalonians 3:16 says, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."  
The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14). This week we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

### Year of Vocation - Learn about Consecrated Life - Vocations of Peace

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you." (John 14:27)

+**Dominican Sisters of Peace** strive to live lives of peace and share the peace of Christ with the world. <<https://oppeace.org/>>

+**Franciscan Sisters of Peace** and **Franciscan Brothers of Peace** proclaim and live the gospel of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis.

<<https://fspnet.org/our-mission>> <<http://www.brothersofpeace.org/>>

+**Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace** and our Associates promote a contemplative spirituality—a gospel spirituality—pursuing justice, they seek God's gift of peace. <<https://csjp.org/>>

These are just a few of the religious orders that are called to promote peace in the world. However, the call to promote peace is part of our Universal Call to Holiness through baptism. Peace is a gift from God, given to us through Jesus that we bring to the world. Not everyone is called to consecrated life, but we are all called to share Christ, the Prince of Peace in the world. Explore their websites and learn more about sharing the gift of peace.

*Reflect as a family: As I await the Prince of Peace, how does God wish to offer me His peace in my life? How does God need me to offer His peace to those around me?*

## Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

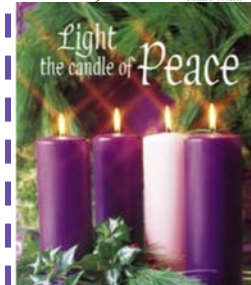
[youtube.com](#) - Instrumental Christmas Music with Fireplace 24/7 - Merry Christmas! (Family Faith Builder)

[youtube.com](#) - Christmas Acoustic Guitar Fireplace with Music & Cozy Christmas Ambience (Family Faith Builder)

[youtube.com](#) - Attending Christmas Mass, Diocese of Syracuse (All ages Faith Builder)

[youtube.com](#) - Waiting in Joyful Hope Reflection, Mary Hallman Catholic.Bible (All ages Faith builder)

[catholicicing.com](#) - Jesse Tree Readings, Ornaments, and Free Printable!(Children's Faith Builder)- share stories from your family tree,too!



### Family Advent Activity

Spend time at the Crib – Encourage each member of your family to spend some quiet time in prayer near the Nativity scene at home or in your parish. What does the manger teach us? How could God allow his Son to be born in a stable? Give thanks for the gift of Christ and the joy of the Christmas season to come.



Family Time: Listen to relaxing Christmas music. See links below for hours of instrumental music.

## Catholic Christmas Shopping Ideas

The Best Catholic Gifts For The Women In Your Life [catholic-link.org](#)

Catholic Gifts For Him: Dad, Brothers, Uncles, Priests! [catholic-link.org](#)

The Best Catholic Gifts for Kids in 2020 [catholic-link.org](#)

Our Favorite Catholic Gifts For Foodies [catholic-link.org](#)

