



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee *December 2025*

The Passion of the Infant Christ

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A book by the above title was written some years back by Caryll Houselander. It was a surprise. We think of 'passion' of the adult Christ, not of his infancy. But we are short-sighted. Advent has begun, and perhaps we need to widen our reflection. We are in the cycle of Matthew. Note how the infancy narratives this month point to the passion.

The Word, in whom "...all things came to be..." confines itself in a woman's womb the size of a man's fist. For nine months she slowly dresses him in human hands, feet, to be nailed, and a heart to be pierced. Without these he would not be able to suffer, so he has asked her to give him a body. He will be bound in swaddle, unable to move arms or legs, he who has created the galaxies. She will give him herself to be his food. He will depend on her milk. From the beginning he was getting ready to be bound, to become food...our sweet baby Jesus...

So, he knows what it is to be bound, to be cared for by another, even to move or to eat, to be washed, to be kept warm. For some of us it is like looking in a mirror. We are becoming familiar with our own limitations day by day. Perhaps, it finally dawns on us what it means to be baptized into his death...our own...inch by inch...day by day. He knows from infancy what it is to face diminishment, to be limited, to be divested of what is familiar. When we join him, he holds us tight and we might just hear "...been there, done that..." We are not alone.

*In God's Word all came to be.
You now bend down so all can see. Tiny hands and tiny feet
will later reach out, wood to meet...bound.
Loving Heart, divested now of crown and power,
you seek my heart in this my hour... come.
Yours are my hands, my feet, my heart.
You and me, never to part...at home.*

Thank you to Associate Catherine Androyna for this month's reflections.

December 7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah:11 1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

As I ponder these words in Isaiah, "You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden" I am reminded of the need for hope. Are we steadfast in our petitions for hope and peace? Peace as described in our reading, "There will be no harm or destruction anywhere on my holy mountain." In what ways are we individually and in community working to promote truth and justice to be co-creators with God on His graces of hope and peace?



December 14, 2025 | Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Our reading from James is only four verses long but stresses patience, "Be Patient", "Looking forward to it patiently", "You, too, must be patient." "persevere patiently". Is patience just waiting? One definition of patience is the ability to calmly endure delays, trouble or suffering without becoming angry or upset. Another meaning states; it involves an inner-calmness, self-control in the face of adversity, avoiding hasty reactions. Patience isn't just about waiting, but also about a deeper resilience. As we are of service to God can we persevere patiently and leave the results to Him and His timing?

December 21, 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24

In Matthew we read "This is how the birth of Jesus came about" then it gives a matter-of-fact accounting, "she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit" then Joseph has a dream, an angel tells him to marry her and name the child Jesus, and this Jesus will save the people from their sins. WOW! Reflect on how we've been called by God. Have you ever been called and immediately accepted it? We know from other scriptures they had some doubts, time of prayer, discernment and consultation with others. Have we accepted all we have been called to or are we in doubt, prayer, discernment or consultation on it?

December 28, 2025 | Holy Family- Sunday in the Octave of Christmas
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Colossians offers wonderful affirmations, we are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. Because of this we are clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, forgiveness and love which binds all these graces. We are called to peace. Dedicated to thankfulness. Allowing the Word of Christ to dwell in us. Are there any of these gifts we struggle with? if so, maybe we need ask ourselves if we fully believe and accept that we are chosen, holy and beloved.