

THE HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Advent Wreath Prayers

for Children Helping Children

Week 1: Light the first purple candle. The first purple candle represents HOPE.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Father in Heaven, we need the warmth of your love in our hearts and the light of your Word in our minds. Help us to grow in our faith so that we will be prepared and filled with hope when Jesus comes.

READING: *Matthew 5: 14-16*

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

LEADER:

Dear God,

In our own little way help us to bring hope to children who are afraid, sad or alone. We ask you to bring them hope for tomorrow. Through us, shine your light of Hope upon them.

Amen.

Week 2: Light the second purple candle. The second purple candle represents PEACE.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Father in Heaven, very soon the birth of your Son, Jesus will light up the world. May his quiet coming bring us true inner peace.

READING: *Isaiah 9: 5-6*

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

LEADER:

Dear God,

Help us to bring peace to those around us. Look after children who live with conflict at home, at school and in their country. Help us to throw your blanket of peace around their shoulders and comfort them with our friendship.

Amen.

Week 3: Light the pink candle. The pink candle represents JOY.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Father in Heaven, we know that you love all of your people. Your love brings the gift of joy to our hearts.

READING: *Philippians 4: 4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

LEADER:

Dear God,

We think of all the unhappy children in the world today. We ask you to bring a little joy to their hearts this Christmas. Thank you for the joy we feel as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Amen.

Week 4: Light the third purple candle. The third purple candle represents LOVE.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Father in Heaven, bless our families and bring us the spirit of understanding and love. May our homes be places of peace and laughter and may your love shine from our eyes.

READING: *1 Corinthians 13: 4-8*

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

LEADER:

Dear God,

In everything we do and say, help us to show love to others. Today we ask your blessing on our circle of love and prayer. Keep us forever safe in the warmth of your love.

Amen.



Artwork by Krista Goebels, Immaculate Conception School, Jenkintown. Krista was one of the winners of the 2009 National HCA Christmas Artwork Contest.

ARCHDIOCESE of PHILADELPHIA

Holy Childhood Association

... a Pontifical Mission Society

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