



Making the Most of Advent and Christmas...

Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

Advent and Christmas are joyous seasons. It is a time to bask in awe and wonder that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to become one of us, to reveal Himself to us, and to save us. God does not sit removed from our pain and suffering but entered into it and took it upon Himself on the cross. The Light of the World casts out darkness. What wondrous LOVE is this!

Yet for many, the Advent and Christmas season is an acutely painful and lonely time. Right now, in our region, statistics show that 74% of people report being lonely, anxious, depressed, and stressed out.

Advent and Christmas is a time for followers of Jesus to receive the good news of great joy for ourselves and to share this good news with others in word and action.

Take a moment to thank God for coming to us. Welcome Him afresh into your heart, mind, and soul. Pray and ask the Lord whom He would like you to reach out to this season.

Making the Most of Advent and Christmas...

- Post on your social media all of your parish's Advent and Christmas services and programs.
- Share postcards and email invitations with friends, co-workers, family, and neighbors to invite them to your church and community outreaches.
- Encourage all church members to give out 3-5 church invites a week leading up to Christmas.
- Get some church friends together and have a Christmas gathering in your home where you invite people who do not have a church home. Invite them to church.
- Share "Why Christmas" booklets.
(www.alphausa.com)
- Be radical inviters. Radical hospitality. Jesus said, "When you welcome the stranger, you welcome Me." (Matthew 25)
- Share the Christmas video and Christmas letter "From God to You." (www.goodnewsinitiative.com)
- Go door to door and invite neighbors to church. Ask if you can pray for anything for them. Pray.
- Get some friends together and go caroling and pray blessing over people's homes.
- At Christmas services, have cards and invitations for New Year's parish offerings. Have something for seekers.
- Follow up with all visitors to church at Christmas. Call them. Send them a personal note. Deliver a small gift like a mug or candle.

For more resources like this, go to www.goodnewsinitiative.com