

Encountering THE SEASON

ADVENT *for the* FAMILY

THE
THIRD WEEK
of ADVENT

PREPARE

A father and mother's love is often considered and called unconditional. Our parents love us, even when we aren't the easiest to love. They love us through our mistakes and struggles. So powerful and strong is God's love for us that it's almost incomprehensible. God's love is truly unconditional, and his mercy is endless. There is nothing that we can do—no sin that we can commit—that God won't forgive. God is constantly pouring out his love and mercy for us.

This Advent, as we wait for the coming of Christ, let us remember that it was because of God's unconditional love for us that he gave us his Son. As we decorate for the Christmas season with garland, ornaments, and gifts, let us make sure that we also build in our hearts a place for Christ. When lighting the third Advent candle this week, may we recall God's love and find ways to make our homes reflect that love.

Challenge of the Week

Find ways that you can help your family decorate the house for Christmas, creating a loving home for Christ. When setting up a Nativity set in your home, consider having everyone add a piece of hay, straw, or cloth to Christ's manger so that when Christmas comes, he'll have a soft resting place.

Songs of the Week

"Love Song for the Bride" (Brother Isaiah) / **"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"** / **"Vox Clara Ecce Intonat"** (see translation by St. John Henry Newman) / **"Praeparate Corda Vestra"**

Prayer

Recast, O Lord, my heart within your flame,
Rebuild me as a tower to brave the dark
And let Your light take up its home in me,
A beacon to each lone and wayward bark.
Grant that each lost, oppressed, and weary soul
May find safe harbor in my own heart's port
And find fit welcome after roaming far,
Their ships come safely home within your court. Amen.

Words of Wisdom

"See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

(James 5:7-9)