

My dear Little Flower,

It's Advent! (Ever wonder why the word "Advent" is so close to the word "Advent-ure!") I am looking forward to journeying with you. Advent is a time that *we anticipate* something really really important: we wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus - we actively look forward to the celebration of Jesus Christ's Birth: that is, Christmas!

Join me in prayer as we take the Advent adventure. We will once again go on a spiritual pilgrimage, and we will call it: the Advent Prayer Adventure!

Here are some ways you can participate in "getting our hearts together" during the Advent Season:

1. Attend Daily Mass.
2. Engage in the Advent events and outreach of the parish, like Sharing tree, Adopt-A-Family, Tree-Lighting, Crafts and Coco's, etc.

*These are events which are already familiar to Little Flower. We have events that are new this year, namely:

3. **THE ADVENT MORNING PRAYER:** Every morning, 30 minutes before Daily Mass, I invite you for *Lauds* (i.e. the Morning prayer) at church. We will learn how to pray the Morning prayer as it is recommended by the Catholic Church to all faithful from the Liturgy of the Hours. This way, we allow ourselves to gather together as a community of faith during Advent in the context of word and worship.

4. **THE MANGER OF HOPES AND DREAMS:** Paper and pens will be available at a section of the Narthex, on which you will be able to write down *your prayer intentions during the Advent Season*. You may drop your prayer intentions in the “Manger” located at the Sanctuary (church Altar section) where the parish Advent Wreath is placed.

To the *Youth of Little Flower*: I really had a great time spending time with you and your parents last Sunday evening for the *Youth Ministry Kick-Off and Food Drive*. I really meant what I said to you when I reflected Jesus' words in his sermon on the Mount: “*You are the salt of the earth - you are the light of the world!*” YOU!

It is through YOU that we adults see the path of the future - an uncertain road, without boundaries and without direction, that needs your light - it is a future path of the Church that begs to hear the Lord's voice through YOU. Let us continue to walk together - walk with us - your adults, as your friends in this exciting ADVENTure called life!

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino