



*Advent*

2018

• • • Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I

**therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'** Deuteronomy 15:11 NRSV Catholic Edition

*Greetings to my Sisters in the League,*

*The following bible readings, meditations and reflections have all been based on our theme of helping the homeless; opening our hearts to our brother in need.*

*Each week you will be given a new bible reading to concentrate on. Please read it each day.*

*The suggested prayer is the "Divine Mercy Chaplet", which is said on your rosary. By praying it each day, we will be tapping into the great graces, the mercy, that God offers through it. "To be true, mercy must be put into action." Mercy is two movements; heart and arms. The heart part moves us to compassion, the arms part is the movement to do what we can to do away with the suffering of another.*

*Sharon St Jean, Life Member*

*Week # 1- First Sunday of Advent  
December 2 - 8*



*"...who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead...a Samaritan while travelling came near him and was moved with pity....he brought him to an inn, and took care of him." Luke 10:32/33/34-35. NRSV Catholic Edition*

**Read** Luke 10:29-37

**Meditate** on what you have read....how many times have we passed by someone in need

- how have you felt; what were your first thoughts
- did you have regrets
- did you follow your first instinct...was it to help or to ignore
- was any mercy shown

**Reflect:** Pope Benedict has said that mercy is the center of the Gospel message

Mercy is the second name for "love"

Mercy is a particular kind of love; a particular mode of love, when suffering, poverty and brokenness are encountered

**Pray** the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Allow it to touch your heart. Pray for those who are lonely or abandoned and are in need of the gift of our time.

**Action:** Send a card, make a phone call or spend some time with someone you know, who is experiencing loneliness; give of your time; give of yourself and show you care about them.



*Week #2- Second Sunday in Advent  
December 9 -15*

*"...You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors...." James 2:8-9 NRSV Catholic Edition*

**Read** James 2:1-9

**Meditate** on what you have read...

- have we been judgemental
- have we separated people into "classes"
- have we always shown love to our neighbour

**Reflect:** Saint Mother Theresa saw the face of Christ in all of those she encountered...

How easy is that to do, today, in the world in which we live?

**Pray** the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Allow it to touch your heart. Pray that The Father will have mercy on us, for all of the times we have judged those we meet.

**Act:** Volunteer some time at a soup kitchen or food bank. If that is not possible, contribute to those in need, in some other way.



*Week #3-Third Sunday in Advent  
December 16-22*

*"...and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill' James 2: 16 NRSV Catholic Edition*

**Read** James 2:14-18

**Meditate** on what you have read...

- have we turned our concerns into actions
- has our faith prompted us to do good

**Reflect:** When I pass someone on the street asking for money, do I at the least acknowledge them by smiling and saying hello; or will I purposely cross the street to avoid them or just pretend they aren't there? Has my lack of faith prompted me to react like this? We may often tell ourselves, "they will only buy drugs or alcohol with any money I might give them." Do I know this for sure? Am I making a point of judging them?

**Pray** the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Allow it to touch your heart.

**Pray** that the Father will show us His mercy, for the times we have chosen not to recognize and give help to our brother in need.

**Act:** If possible, purchase a \$5 gift card from McDonald's or Tim Horton's; carry it in your purse. You never know when you may have the opportunity to give it to someone in need.



*Week # 4-Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 23*

*"...for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:4  
NRSV Catholic Edition*

**Read** Luke 21:1-4

**Meditate** on what you have read

- does fear of going without keep us from "giving all we have"
- how does our faith and trust in God affect "our generosity"

**Reflect:** One of the strangest sounding truths is that the need of the one giving, is greater than the need of others to receive. All people, to be fully human, need to share their skills and time and their possessions with others. We are made that way by Our Creator; to show compassion and generosity.

**Pray** the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Allow it to touch your heart. Pray, that through the mercy that Our Father has blessed us with, we may truly see what He calls us to do.

**Act:** Tomorrow, we celebrate the eve of the birth of Christ Our Savior. Let us go forth with a heart filled with "a need" to be our brothers' keeper; doing what we can to be the eyes, hands and feet of Jesus. When we look into the face of someone in need, let us see His face!

*...May you and your families be blessed with peace, joy and love during this wondrous season and throughout the New Year.*

*Merry Christmas*

Prepared by Sharon St Jean, Life Member, Ontario