

## Prayer Anthology #66

**Focus Point:** December is here and most of us are busy preparing for the Holidays. Decorating, shopping, making lists, wrapping gifts and baking as we ready ourselves and our homes for Christmas. It can be exhausting and time consuming and often leads to us forgetting about what it is we are truly preparing for: the Birth of Jesus. As we think about Mary and Joseph and what it was they were doing to prepare for His birth, we recognize that their preparations were quite drastically different from our preparations of today. So how, in this busy time, can we return to the focus that Mary and Joseph may have had as they awaited the birth of Jesus? Father Joe would say that "one important way is Prayer." Weekly lighting of the four Candles of the Advent wreath can help us to put aside time for and guide our Prayers. May the Spirit of Christmas fill you with all the meaning of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!!!

### **Prayer for focus on the Birth of Jesus:**

*Dear Lord, Help me to prepare for the Birth of Jesus through daily Prayer. Let me thank the Lord each day for His many blessings. Thank You for the Hope that Jesus brought to all of us and continues to give us today in all of life's situations. Please let me be worthy of and thankful for Your continued Peace in my life. I know that through Your Grace, I can find true peace in all of life, even in my struggles. Thank You for the Joy I find in giving to friends, family and those less fortunate. I know that not everyone will have a "Merry" Christmas and I need to remember them in my prayers. I pray for the Holy Spirit to fill my heart with the same Love you give to me unconditionally. Thank you for the constant presence of You and Your love. And I pray that I share Your gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love with others, especially this Christmas season as we prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*