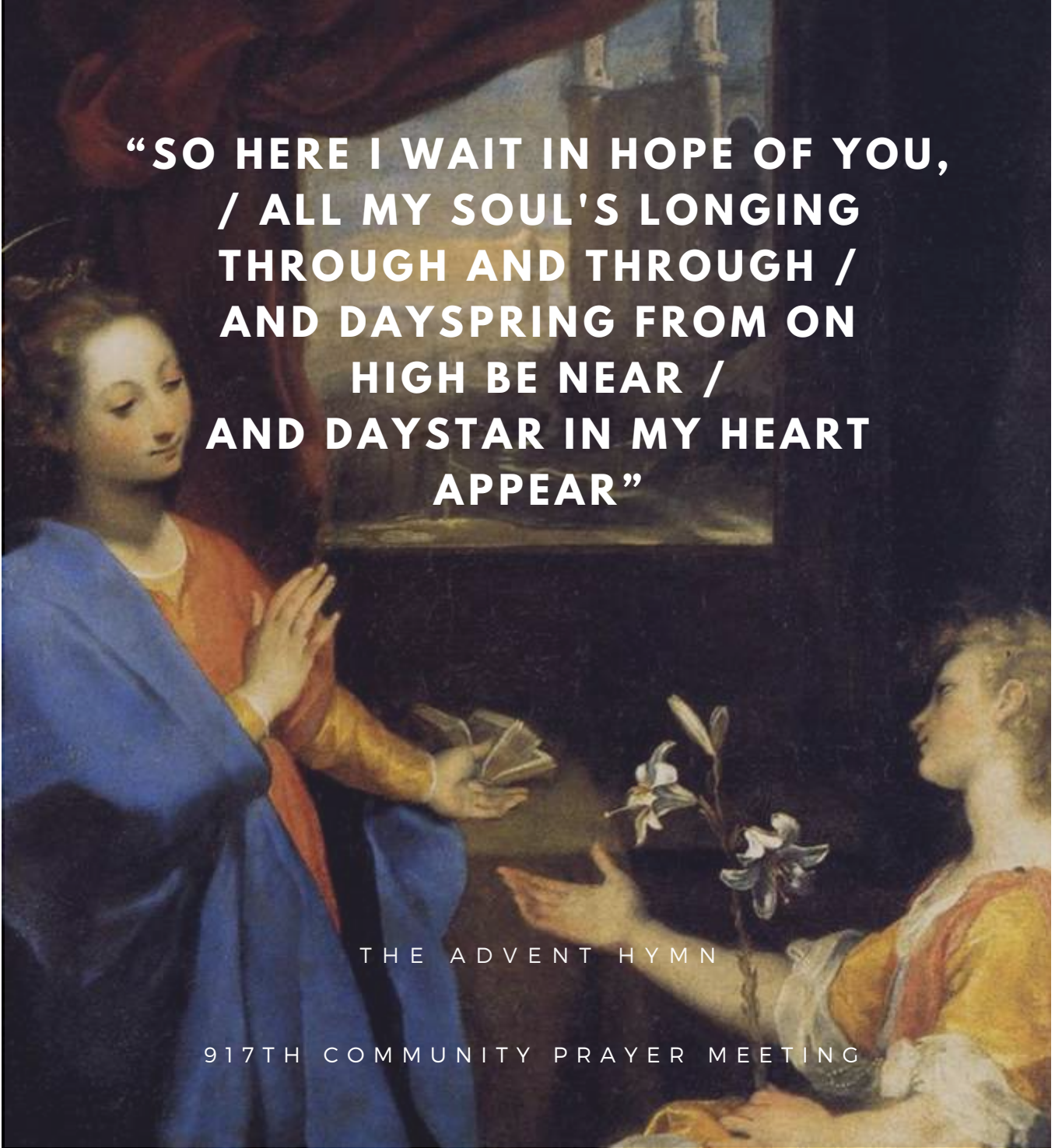


JESUS IS LORD!

# PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION



**“SO HERE I WAIT IN HOPE OF YOU,  
/ ALL MY SOUL'S LONGING  
THROUGH AND THROUGH /  
AND DAYSPRING FROM ON  
HIGH BE NEAR /  
AND DAYSTAR IN MY HEART  
APPEAR”**

THE ADVENT HYMN

917TH COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 2023



“Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again: Rejoice!”

*Philippians 4:4*

## **I AM A GENEROUS GOD**

I am a very generous God. I am very generous with my mercy, in each of your lives. I am very generous with my love for each of you. I am very generous with the graces I pour down upon you as you live this life, as you are moving towards me in my Kingdom. I say to you call upon me for all of the graces needed to live this life, and I will pour them down upon you. And, I say to you, be extravagantly merciful with each other. I call you to be extravagantly in love with each other because each of you represents me. Be generous with your mercy, be generous with love for I am a very generous God.

## **GO OUT AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS**

You, my People of Hope, must keep before you my promise that the forces of evil will not prevail over my church. My word shall not return to me void but shall complete the task I willed it to accomplish. Go out and proclaim the good news of my love by your acts of mercy, and words of gratitude in the world. This is what they need to build faith. This is what they need to have hope. This is what they need to know my Love.

## **HOLD ONTO MY CROSS**

Philippians 4:4 - “I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord. I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone, the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking for God for it with prayer and thanksgiving. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything we love and honor and everything that can be thought of as virtue worthy of praise.”

For you are the People of Hope, you are not the people of fear. You are the People of Hope, not people of anxiety that are worried about this circumstance and that circumstance. Bring anything that's bothering you, troubling you, that you are afraid of, anything that you are tempted to think ‘this is just you and how you think’, bring it to the foot of the cross. Oh, my People of Hope I am bringing you much closer to the foot of my cross. Hold on to my cross. My mother is with you.

**Prophecies from Community Prayer Meeting  
November 19, 2023**

**A NOTE FROM MARTY BUGANSKI  
SENIOR COORDINATOR OF THE PEOPLE OF HOPE**

**Dear Brothers & Sisters,**

By the time you receive this bulletin there will only be a few short days remaining in Advent. It is quite possible that you may not even have a chance to read it before Christmas day.

Although the season of Advent is a time to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus, the word advent itself is defined as “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event”. So, in a certain sense, Advent is more about Christ coming to us, than us being prepared to receive Him. That is not to say we should not prepare as Holy Mother church directs us. But as we read in Galatians 4:4-5 “... when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons”. These beautiful reassuring words reveal to us that God had and has a plan for all mankind and each of us as His adopted sons and daughters. Our Heavenly Father knew from all eternity when He would send Jesus into the world. It would be the perfect time, the fullness of time. He knows too, when Jesus will return in glory to judge us. That day too will be the perfect time, the fullness of time. Yet, there is a third coming, or Advent, of Christ as St. Bernard of Clairvaux tells us. It is the coming of Christ to each us each day, in our work, in our relating with others, in our prayer and in our receiving the sacraments. This too occurs in the fullness of time as St. Paul says in II Corinthians “Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation!” These words are meant to reassure us that God’s generosity has no limits and His mercies are renewed each day.

Whether our Advent preparations are what we had hoped them to be or not, our Lord Jesus intends to come to each of us. In fact, He is longing for you as we read in Song of Songs, “Let me see you, let me hear your voice, For your voice is sweet, and you are lovely”. Brothers and sisters, let us not resist our Lord! May today and every day be an Advent of Christ in our hearts.

I pray that all of you and your families will have a blessed Christmas season.

In Jesus,



**Advent  
December 2023**



# “JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!”:

## THE BLESSING OF THE ADVENT SEASON



Advent is a very special time of the year for me and for my family. I eagerly look forward to Advent and Christmas all year long. In a funny turn of events, the previous owners of our home used to hang up a large, outdoor sign on their house front that read: “Jesus is the Reason for the Season!” I love Christmas so much that I often think how appropriate it is that Phil and I moved our family into this house. We, too, strive to keep Jesus as the focus of the season. Thankfully, the Church is generous with traditions to incorporate into our lives in the expectant days prior to Christmas. Over the years, we’ve been able to weave some customs into our family life that enrich the Advent experience that my children, my husband, and I have.

Though it is not a Christian tradition, perhaps the most significant thing that Phil and I try to do is to finish the bulk of our Christmas shopping before Advent starts. It’s a lofty goal... Some years we do better than others. It takes much planning ahead before December even begins but we find that it is a worthwhile endeavor as it frees up mental space and calendar slots that we can dedicate to more important things. This means that we can spend more time with each other and with our kids preparing our hearts for Jesus’ birth without (most of) the preoccupation of shopping lists.

We started the Jesse tree tradition years ago when we had just two little ones. It continues to be something our children look forward to. I did not grow up with this tradition so I had to learn about it “on the job”: the Jesse Tree is a walk through the ancestors of Jesus Christ, starting with Adam and ending with Jesus Himself. Each day of Advent

“WE REALLY LOVE USING A CHILDREN’S BIBLE CALLED *THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE* BECAUSE IT IS ENGAGING FOR ALL AGES AND IT TELLS STORIES SIMPLY AND CHRONOLOGICALLY. THIS BIBLE MAY BE INTENDED FOR CHILDREN BUT IT HAS BEEN INSPIRATIONAL FOR PHIL AND ME, AS WELL. WITH EACH STORY, OUR UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS GROWS.”

## JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

(technically the first twenty-five days of December) is assigned a different character from Jesus's family tree. Each character also has a symbol that is displayed on an ornament and hung on a tree. We started with a set of ornaments that I acquired through an exchange but recently replaced those with a set of wooden blocks, hand painted with each symbol. We place all of the blocks on a wooden shelf in the shape of a tree and display a symbol each night as Christmas approaches.

"HAVING A TRADITION LIKE THIS HAS BEEN WONDERFUL IN KEEPING JESUS AT THE CENTER OF ADVENT"

Along with the Jesse Tree, we read a passage from the Bible that goes with Jesus' ancestor of the day. We really love using a children's Bible called The Jesus Storybook Bible because it is engaging for all ages and it tells stories simply and chronologically. This Bible may be intended for children but it has been inspirational for Phil and me, as well. With each story, our understanding of Jesus grows. We read one story every night at dinner time. Sometimes we miss a few and have to catch up. Alas! Such is life! On Christmas morning, while we eat breakfast, we read the final story: Jesus' birth! Even knowing how the story goes, the build up is exciting for all of us. Having a tradition like this has been wonderful in keeping Jesus at the center of Advent and, furthermore, brings our whole family together to linger a little longer with each other.



## JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

We also light the candles on the Advent wreath at dinner time. Advent often sneaks up on me so I try to buy the candles well in advance so we can start on time. I also bought a beautiful Advent wreath that I love to display. Catching a glimpse of it throughout the day reminds me of the season and it's a helpful physical reminder to turn my disposition towards preparing my heart for the birth of the Savior.

Though I try to wait as long as possible to decorate our home for Christmas (and I have a lot of festive decor), during Advent, I love to put nativity scenes wherever possible. This too is helpful for my spiritual disposition. It also sparks conversations with our kids about the things that they see in the manger... or what they don't see. We don't put baby Jesus in the manger until Christmas day. It is always a celebratory moment when the little kids can *finally* put Jesus in his straw crib.

Lastly, in January, when I pack up Christmas, sending it up to the attic for another year of storage, I place the Advent things in a separate box. This avoids having to dig through the Christmas items when the following Advent begins. Having the Advent things readily available takes the guess work out of the preparation that goes into observing the season.

“WE DON'T PUT BABY JESUS IN THE MANGER UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY. IT IS ALWAYS A CELEBRATORY MOMENT WHEN THE LITTLE KIDS CAN *FINALLY* PUT JESUS IN HIS STRAW CRIB.”

There are so many things we can do to observe Advent but these are the things that have worked well for our family. These traditions have helped me in my personal spiritual life so my hope is that they are also setting a foundation for our kids as they grow to make faith their own.

-Esther Tomasello, *Lighthouse Member*







PEOPLE OF HOPE

REJOICE AND BE GLAD THAT SO  
GREAT AND GOOD A LORD, ON COMING  
INTO THE VIRGIN'S WOMB, WILLED TO  
APPEAR DESPISED, NEEDY, AND POOR  
IN THIS WORLD, SO THAT MEN WHO  
WERE IN DIRE POVERTY AND  
SUFFERING GREAT NEED OF HEAVENLY  
FOOD MIGHT BE MADE RICH IN HIM

ST CLAIRE OF ASSISSI



“ WE WERE BACK AS A BAND OF  
BROTHERS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL  
BATTLE. ”



## **ADVENT MEN'S NIGHT**

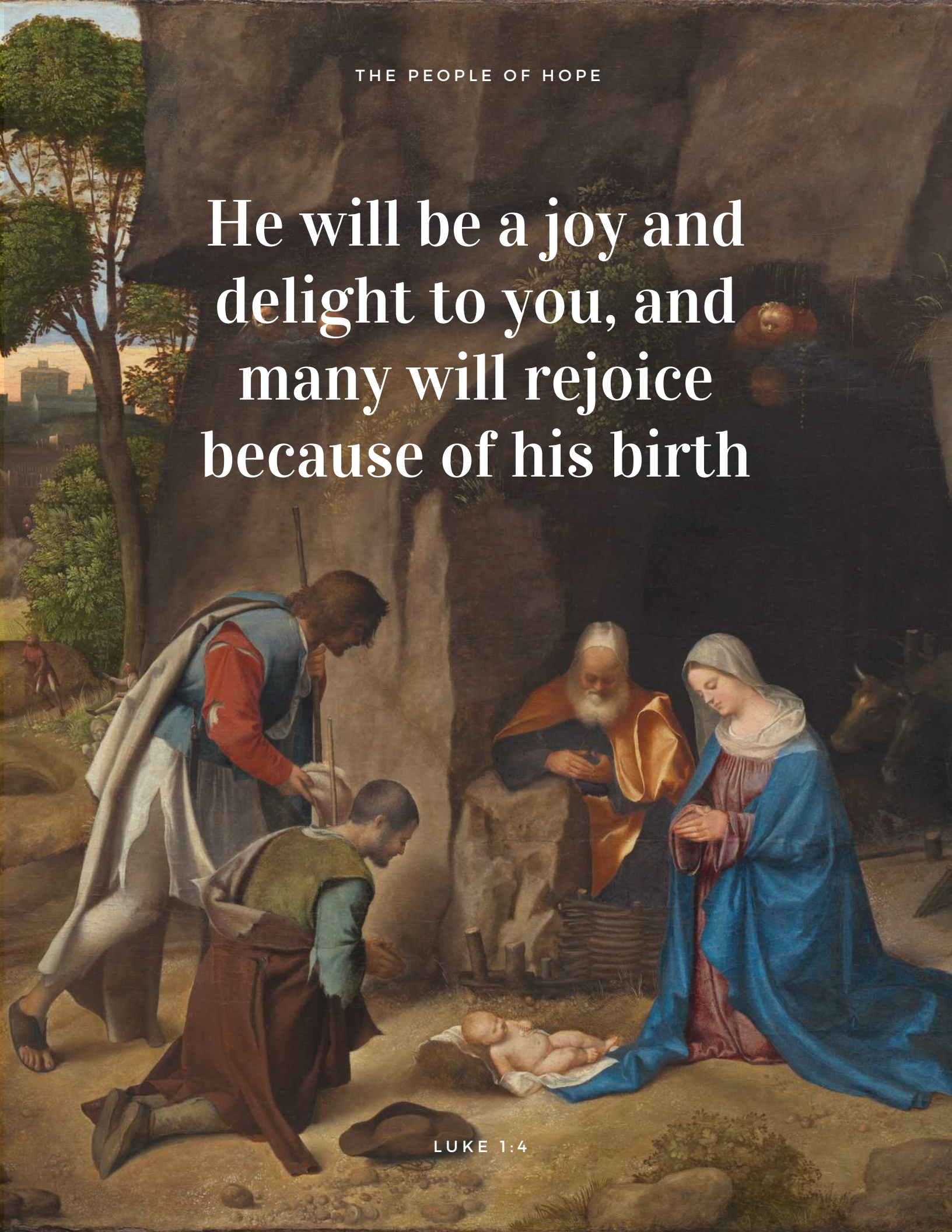
This year's Men's Advent Night was an incredibly fruitful night of prayer, brotherhood, and fellowship. It was amazing to get together as a multitude of brothers of varying ages and stages in life to actively participate in wholehearted praise and worship, adoration, and confession. It is always so powerful when men gather to praise their God and this night was no exception. Even though it had been a while since I saw some of these guys back at the men's retreat, it felt like we all picked up right where we left off. We were back as a band of brothers engaged in spiritual battle. We were powerfully called to prayer and contemplation while being exhorted by Brother Patrick. He reminded us of the need to watch, listen, hope, and cultivate interior silence during this Advent season. He also encouraged us to keep our eyes and ears open while keeping our mouths closed as we make space for Jesus in our hearts.

JAKE  
LIGHTHOUSE MEMBER &  
COMPASS SMALL GROUP LEADER



THE PEOPLE OF HOPE

He will be a joy and  
delight to you, and  
many will rejoice  
because of his birth



LUKE 1:4





## BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

*All make the sign of the cross as the parent or leader says:*

*Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord.*

*All: Now and Forever.*

*One of those present or the leader reads the text of Sacred Scripture.*

Brothers and sister, listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Titus: 3: 4-7

But when the kindness and generous love of God our Savior appeared not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, become heirs in hope of eternal life.

*Leader: Let us pray*

Lord our God,  
We praise You for the light of creation:  
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.  
We praise You for the light of Israel:  
The Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We  
praise You for Jesus Christ, your Son:  
He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,  
who fills us with the wonder of Your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All: Amen.*



# BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

*All make the sign of the cross as the parent or leader says:*

*Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

*All: Who made heaven and earth.*

*One of those present or the leader reads the text of Sacred Scripture.*

Brothers and sister, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke (2: 1-8)

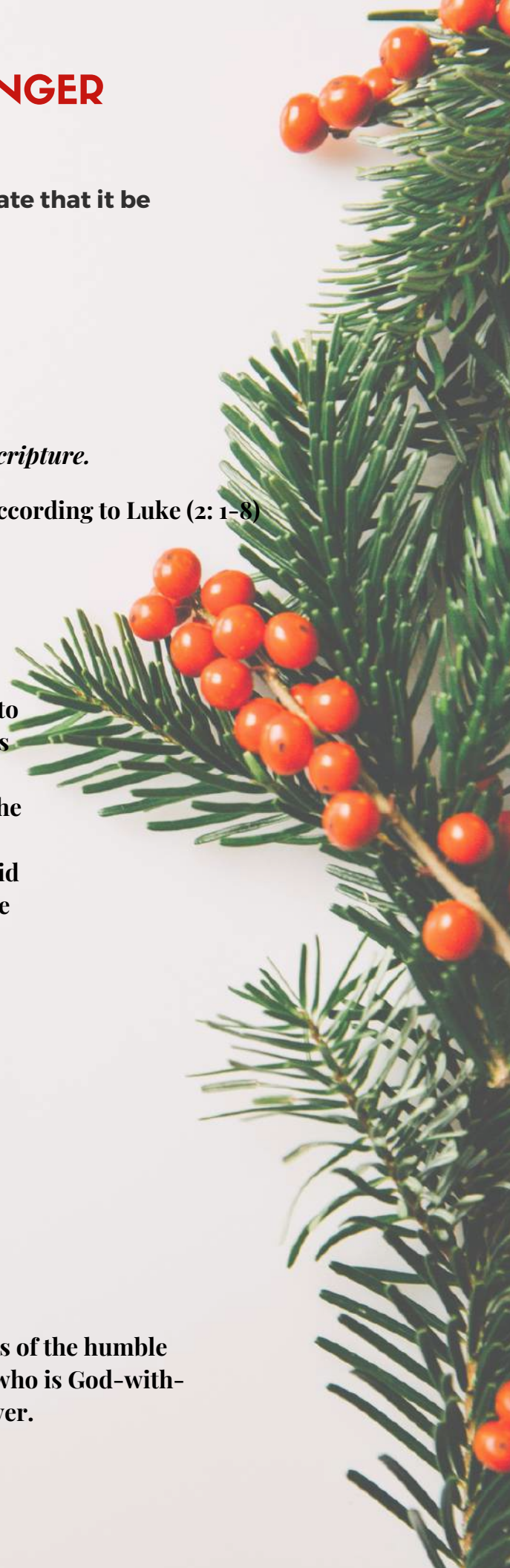
In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

*Leader: Let us pray.*

God of every nation and people,  
from the beginning of creation  
You have made manifest Your love:  
when our need for a Savior was great  
You sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary,  
To our lives He brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger, may it remind us of the humble birth of Your son Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

*All: Amen.*



# IGNITE

YOUTH MINISTRY



## GREETINGS FROM IGNITE YOUTH MINISTRY!

Our mission is to provide opportunities for your youth to encounter the Lord in an authentic and personal way. This fall we focused our emphasis on testimonies, to hear how the Lord shows up in unique and personal ways for each person. Some of our speakers included Niecey from the Detroit Community, Ted and Ireland, Seton Hall SPO missionaries, and last but not least, Charles Masterson who volunteers with Ignite. These personal sharings depicted how to approach suffering, the importance of community, and giving your fears and worries to the Lord. Topics that touch on how to be a strong Christian in their generation, which the youth specifically requested.

Our biggest takeaway from this past fall is how on fire the youth are. The feedback we receive from the roughly 50 teens that attend large groups and 41 teens in small groups; they desire more. More content, deeper friendships and more chances to experience the Lord with their peers. Next year is filled with so much hope to have a great community supporting Ignite, generous volunteers, and teens who are open to Christ. We ask for prayers to follow where the Holy Spirit leads and for the volunteers, youth, and their parents who are giving their time and talents.

JULIE  
IGNITE YOUTH LEADER



**THE PEOPLE OF HOPE**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF**  
*Mary Mother of God Mass*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST**  
**7:00PM MASS**  
6:45PM CAROLS BEFORE MASS

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNT  
CHURCH**  
170 Mt Bethel Rd, Warren,  
NJ 07059

*Come join for Mary  
Mother of God Mass.  
We will have a time of  
socializing with  
cookies & hot  
beverages after -  
please bring a plate of  
cookies to share. We  
look forward to being  
together!*



# PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK

## IMMEDIATE NEED

- Peggy Camiolo
- MaryAnn Paster
- Shannon Hardy

## SERIOUS & ONGOING

- Rita (Buganski) Arena
- Eleanor Benson
- Jack Bickel
- Margaret Fierro
- Danielle Neri
- Lee Scarfone
- Rose Molnar
- Dan O'Mullan
- Carol Ann McCarthy
- Jackie Donnelley

## AROUND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- Steve Clark - Servants of the Word, Chelsea, MI

Please visit our website [peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions](https://peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions) to see our complete list of our prayer intentions and to add to our list.

## 2023 PRAYER PETITION HIGHLIGHT

### GOVERNMENT

*"I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectable in every way." (1Tim.2:2)*

Holy Mother Mary pray for our nation to turn back to God. We pray for all those in government, that they will govern in Godly ways. May all ungodly actions be thwarted. Give us Godly men & women to serve us. Bless President Joseph Biden and his administration. Please bless and protect all serving in the military.

*"Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and petitions full of gratitude".*

**PHIL. 4:6**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

---

## MARY MOTHER OF GOD MASS

Sunday, December 31st  
Our Lady of the Mount  
7pm

## LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Friday, January 5th  
7:30-10:30pm  
Details to come in an email

## ANCHOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 6th  
6pm  
Details to come in an email

## COMPASS

## TEACHING NIGHT

Tuesday, December 19th  
8-9:30pm



## KA

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Thursday, December 19th  
7pm  
Koinonia Academy

908.222.9722

info@peopleofhope.net // www.peopleofhope.net  
1040 Plainfield Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060

 @thepeopleofhope     @peopleofhopenj



**T H E P E O P L E O F H O P E**  
A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

IN LOVING MEMORY  
*JANET MARY LARIVIERE*

**Born into earthly Life: March 12, 1946**

**Baptized: March 31, 1946**

**Born into Eternal Life:**

**October 24, 2023**

Janet's life was a testament to love, resilience, and faith. On October 24, 2023, she passed away peacefully at home on Lake Lancer, Michigan surrounded by John and their children.

Born on March 12, 1946, in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, Janet's early life was deeply rooted in Detroit and a large, loving family of seven siblings. It was love at first sight when she met John Quaine Lariviere while both attending Servite High School, and soon after were joined together in a marriage that flourished for over 57 years.

In 1979, they moved to New Jersey, established a home in Berkeley Heights and eagerly joined the People of Hope Community soon thereafter.

As a devoted wife and mother, Janet was a constant support to John in his role as a longtime Coordinator. As a member of the People of Hope for over 30 years, she made enduring friendships, volunteered for numerous events, organized meals, lead share groups and was a longtime supporter of Koinonia Academy where all eight of her children graduated. One of her endearing highlights was serving 11 years at Camp Hope. When her Camp Hope service ended, she took over office management at Hillsborough Pediatrics for 15 years. Janet honed a steadfast faith in God that remained to the very end as John and their children prayed the rosary with her in her final moments. She had a very practical and powerful way of drawing people in and making them feel welcome and connected without reserve - this was one of her many gifts. She lived life to the fullest and gave of her life completely to those around her.

Janet welcomed every opportunity to bring her family together for rowdy gatherings and Holidays featuring her dinner specialties. Her Lord's Day Suppers were a labor of love where every evening was planned to the last detail. She made the best Challah bread and the family and guests would eagerly "dig in" for this special family treat. She brought us life and love in all she did for us. Her zest for life, great laugh and warm heart made every moment with her special.

Janet was predeceased by her sisters, Donna, Audrey, and Carole, and her parents, William & Mildred Peitz. She leaves behind an enduring legacy in her loving husband, John, and their eight children: John (Frances), Scott (Ildiko), Aimee (Mike), Nicole (Brett), Melissa (Wim), Joseph (Dori), Michael (Katie), and Mary (Mark); 25 grandchildren who will cherish her memories; and siblings Marilyn, Ilene, Joanne, William, and John.

Janet will be deeply missed, but her spirit will continue to guide and inspire all those who were blessed to know her.



-The Lariviere Family