**Praying for my Family:**

**Advent … Now – Dec 16th**

Oh, Lord, be with us now as we gather around this wreath.  As we light these candles, may this time together open our eyes to see your love in our lives and in the love we share for each other. Help us to be grateful for all of the ways you shine a light in the darkness of our hearts. Let us feel that love from you and be grateful for it. Open our hearts to those who have so much less than we do; those whose lives are so full of pain that they cannot see the light of your love. Show us how to carry that light to other people. Amen.

Pick one question to talk about with each other at this time.

* How did I bring light into someone's life today?
* What person or people do I think needs a special light in their lives? How could I bring that to them?
* Name a light someone brought into my life today.

**Praying for my Family:**

**Advent … Dec 17-24**

Jesus,
Our family is not as "ideal" as I want it to be. There is arguing and silence. Money, jobs and small differences between us add tension to our lives. I want to live more simply but I keep getting sidetracked, not just by shopping and decorating, but by envy and petty annoyances.

Jesus,

let me turn and really see you and Mary and Joseph. Let me remember *your* ancestors as [Matthew](http://www.usccb.org/nab/readings/121709.shtml#gospel)tells the story. There are kings, but not very perfect. There are women, but each of them "odd" in some way: a foreigner, a prostitute, a pregnant, unmarried mother. Yet this is your family, a sacred heritage.

 Help me to love my family more freely, to find the generosity to unlock my heart and stop judging and to embrace and love to their imperfections, just as you hold my mine so closely. May the candles we light tonight, help us to remember to be the light in each other's lives.

*Reflect:*

* With whom can I be more patient, more forgiving, more affirming, more loving?

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