

## *A Christmas Prayer*

O Lord Jesus Christ,

During this Advent season  
when we celebrate Your birth,  
we pray that You will help us focus our minds  
on the real purpose and meaning of Christmas.  
Help us to think of Christmas not only as a time  
of giving and receiving natural gifts,  
but a time to give spiritually as well.

May we learn to give the gifts of love and wisdom,  
of faithfulness and sincerity, and,  
as You gave Yourself to us,  
may we give ourselves to others.

We recognize that in giving spiritual things  
we are not giving things that are our own,  
but things in us that come from You –  
for without You we have nothing good to give.  
Help us, then, to open our hearts with joy  
so that we might become conduits for Your eternal qualities,  
for as we do so,  
we give in the true spirit of Your advent.

Amen.