

*Did you know . . .*

## **ADVENT BEGINS**

Today we begin Advent.

For some of us, these next four weeks, rather than being a time of spiritual preparation before Christ's birth, will be filled with "Things To do" that take us away from the true meaning of Christmas. This prayer is designed to bring us back to what is truly important.

### **Praying Over My To-Do List**

I sit here with my list, Lord, and I know I need help finding a balance. I am so looking forward to Christmas Day, with the family here, the company, the wonderful celebration. But, Lord, there is SO much to do! When will it all get done? How will I maintain any semblance of inner peace in this "peaceful" season?

I think, Lord, that I need some balance in my life. I feel so torn between wanting to cook and fill my house with wonderful welcoming smells, and wanting to finish decorating the house. I have shopping to do, the house to clean and cards to write and mail. When? How?

Help me, guide me, Lord. Help me to set priorities around doing those things that will bring me closer to you. Maybe my house really is clean enough, or maybe I can ask my family for help. Can the cards wait until a quiet afternoon after Christmas? Can my house decorations be simpler? Is there more than a little ego involved when I want so desperately to have my house "magazine perfect" for the holidays?

Help me rediscover the joy of simplicity, Lord. Help me to remember what I am celebrating. Help me to find it in my heart to call out, "Come, Lord Jesus." (Creighton University)

Wishing you all a Blessed Advent!

*Judy Pearson*

