Archdiocese of Omaha

ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

December 2026

Dear Friends,

In this season of Advent, I encourage everyone to open your hearts to the Lord Jesus and ask him to grant you the gift of his peace. This is a busy time of year for many people, as we may find ourselves going to the store, post office, bank, and other places. This busy time can give rise to feelings of anxiety, as we ask ourselves questions such as, "Will I be prepared for Christmas?" In these weeks, I invite you to join me in asking Jesus to free us from worry and anxiety and help us experience the peace that Jesus brings.

What will we want to remember about Christmas 2026? It may not be about finding or receiving the perfect gift, but rather our presence, love, and compassion for the people God has given us to love. Will we give others our undivided attention, without looking at our watch or phone? Or will we be preoccupied about being somewhere else or racing to our next event?

Christ came to be with us and for us to be with him, now and in eternity. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and imitate his example of being present in an undivided way. The infant Jesus comes to be present to us. What do we need to do to be present to Him and the people God has given us to love at Christmas?

May this Advent season prepare us well to welcome Christ and let us dedicate time to be with one another in a manner that gives life. In prayer, let us speak comfortably and at length with the Lord Jesus, and let us take the time to listen to and share with those God has given us in our lives.

Have a blessed Advent,

+ Michael McGovern

Most Reverend Michael McGovern
Archbishop of Omaha

2222 N. 111th St. Omaha, NE 68164-3817 | p. 402.558.3100 | www.archomaha.org