

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

DO YOU SEE THE LANTERNS?

A candle in the darkness appears to burn the brightest. The days of darkness are upon us, the light of day grows shorter and we find ourselves searching for sources of light beyond the sun.

While we might flip switches instead of lighting candles or setting out lanterns, what if we took the time to light a candle and watch it flicker in the night? It burns with movement and motion; it is everchanging but steady, as though it has life. A candle is both peaceful and powerful.

“Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.”

PSALM 1

Imagine the light of the Lord, the light of life, not as a candle, but as a raging fire. It burns with power, meant to solicit awe and wonder. There are times in our lives when we need more than a candle to find our way through the depths of darkness. In this year, as a country and world, we have found ourselves in great darkness as we live and persevere through the COVID-19 pandemic. More than a simple candle is needed to light our way through. Like a flickering candle, we have been changed, while we remain steady.



As we reflect on those times, consider who brought the fire to survive the darkness? Where was the Lord present with the light of life? Was it in the patients and families? In the dedication of caregivers? In the choices of decision makers? In the support and prayers of chaplains and pastoral care associates? In the local and national community? In this time of Advent, take a moment to reflect on the light that we found in those times which sustained us; the gifts God sent to guide and provide us the hope necessary to carry on. As we remember those who brought forth the light, let us pray in thanksgiving for their gifts and ask God to give us the grace and strength to be the light for our colleagues, our patients, residents and our communities. In this time of waiting, let us look forward to the light of the world to be born at Christmas.

Visit the Online Advent Calendar at CHAUSA.ORG/ADVENT