



# Peace Offerings

## The Meaning of Advent: Finding Christ Within

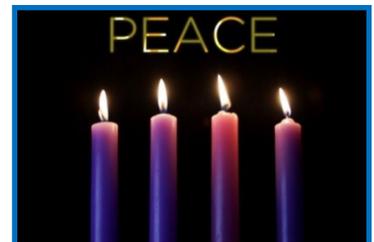
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The word advent comes from the Latin word meaning “coming.” Historically in the Church, Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for the arrival of Christ. It is a season that occurs over the four Sundays that precede Christmas, and is meant to be a time of joyful anticipation. Unfortunately, many of us in our culture tend to skip over this waiting period and

jump right into the birthday season. Christmas. Perhaps in doing this, we risk missing the great gift we were given 2000 years ago.

Let’s take this “coming of Christ” to a deeper level and examine what it would mean if we actually took the time to thoughtfully prepare for the birth of Christ and Spirit within our hearts. We are told that Christ



was incarnate, coming down from heaven to become a part of the material/human world. God becoming Man. If that is true, then is it not also conceivable that he remains within us, constantly (cont. p. 3)

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**Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.**

## SAVE THE DATE

Deacon Michael Rector, the facilitator of the Ministry of Consolation at Christ the King Church, will be speaking to Pax Christi Little Rock members on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 on the grief process and the ways his ministry at CTK serve to



Deacon Mike Rector

meet the needs of parishioners who have lost a family member or friend. This meeting will take place at Fitzgerald Hall on the campus of St. John’s, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72203. All are welcome. Please email Sherry at [paxchristilr@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristilr@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## Peace Offerings

## Active Peacemaking Initiative

**As part of our ongoing endeavor to put study and prayer into action, here is our highlighted December project that demonstrates our goal of active peacemaking.**

### Formation of LGBTQ Support Groups

Pax Christi-LR continues to work towards the formation of LGBTQ support groups following our book study and meeting with Father James Martin. Father Mark Wood, pastor at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Little Rock, is taking the lead in this ministry. There was an organizational meeting of the formation committee on December 7 at St. Theresa's. A rosary/prayer hour will be held on January 6 at 4 pm in the CTK chapel. Father Wood will be contacting priests in the Central Arkansas area to speak with them about sending referrals to the program. We will also be contacting Catholic Campus Ministry programs at Hendrix and UCA for referrals. Pax Christi members and friends are urged to contact anyone who might benefit from support. Have them email Sherry at [paxchristilr@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristilr@gmail.com) for more information.

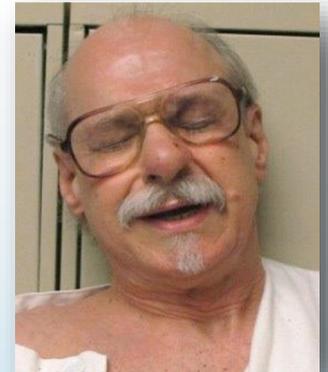
### October Mission Results

At our November meeting, PCLR requested that attendees donate money to provide Thanksgiving dinners for folks through The Helping Hand of Little Rock. Donations totaling **\$300** were mailed to Helping Hand, providing dinners for eight families.

*Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.*

## AR Supreme Court Stays Jack Greene Execution

On November 7, the Arkansas Supreme Court halted the planned execution of Jack Greene so that the justices could review a lower court's decision to dismiss his challenge of a state law that gives Arkansas' top prison official the authority to determine whether Greene is competent. This official is not a psychologist or psychiatrist and has no formal training to make these determinations although the state law grants her this authority. Scott Braden, an assistant federal defender representing Greene, said, "Today's order means that our client, Jack Greene, will have the



Jack Greene

opportunity to make the case that he should receive an independent hearing about his competency for execution. Meanwhile, another state judge has ordered officials to release information on one of the injection drugs used.

### Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our December mission will support Lucie's Place, a non-profit organization in Little Rock that is opening a home for homeless

LGBTQ young adults. They provide a safe living environment, job training, and counseling services to ensure physical and emotional stability. If you can't attend and wish to contribute, please send your donation to PCLR-415 N. McKinley St., #1040 Little Rock, AR 72205.

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### PEACE PARTNERS

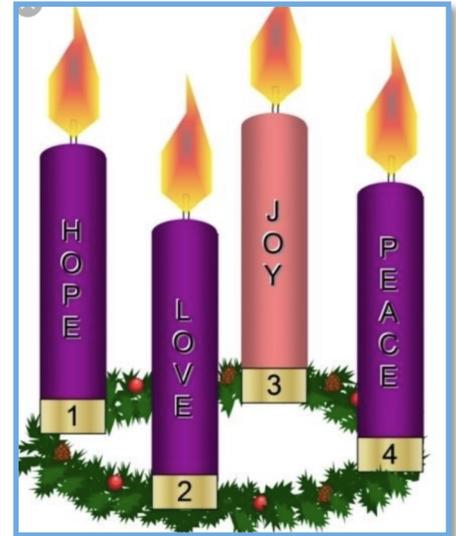
Peace Partners highlights various peace and social justice organizations that share our vision: active promotion of peace in our neighborhood, state, country and world. The goal is to increase awareness of the many organizations in our area that work for peace through social justice and invite joint ventures between these groups to increase the effectiveness of our mission.

#### Women's Federation for World Peace USA



Women's Federation for World Peace is a non-profit organization committed to providing women with the opportunity to create lasting peace in the world through talk, forums at the UN, racial and religious reconciliation projects, conferences, benefits, and service projects. The AR chapter of WFWP is conducting a "Bridge of Peace" Sisterhood Ceremony on Dec. 18 from 6-9 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn on 10914 Kanis Rd., LR 72211.

(Advent-cont) awaiting the opportunity to be born again and share His grace with us anew. In Pax Christi, we believe that there are many possible ways through prayer, study and action to become the hands and feet of Christ on earth. The most important aspect of this work, however, is to remain watchful and wait for those situations where we find that Christ desires for us to invest our time, treasure and talents. After all, Advent is not just about the waiting for the birth of the Christ Child. It is also preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time. We have much to do as we work to manifest the love of



Christ in our world. As He instructed us, the best way to accomplish this task is in the company of others. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst." Matthew 18:20

### Pax Christi Little Rock Goes on Retreat in January

Pax Christi will be holding an all-day retreat at the beautiful home of one our board members, Becky Mullican. The retreat will take place on Saturday, January 20 from 9 am until 5 pm and will conclude with Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Morriton at 5:30. Board and active members are invited to attend. Focus will be on reviewing projects completed this year and making preparations for next year's mission. We will begin our

new year with renewal of our vows of nonviolence, sharing them with our Bishop and PCUSA. We will continue to emphasize development of nonviolent means of achieving justice and equality in our world. Each participant will be asked to share their developing interests related to social justice issues. There is no charge for this retreat and lunch/snacks will be provided. It will be a time of serious reflection on the path of Pax Christi LR in the coming year.

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## THE CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE INITIATIVE

The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative is a project of Pax Christi International, launched at the Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference held in Rome April 11-13, 2016. This initiative affirms that active nonviolence is at the heart of the vision and message of Jesus Christ, the life of the Catholic Church, and the long-term vocation of healing and reconciling both people and planet. Lay people and religious came together from Africa, North and South America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East to call on the Church to take a clear stand for active nonviolence and against all forms of violence. In his message to the Conference, Pope Francis said, "Your thoughts on revitalizing the tools of nonviolence, and of active nonviolence in particular, will be a needed and positive contribution." The conference calls on the Church to:

- **Continue developing Catholic Social teaching on Nonviolence.**
- **Integrate nonviolence into the life and work of the Church.**
- **Promote nonviolent practices and strategies.**
- **Initiate a global conversation on nonviolence.**
- **No longer use or teach "just war theory."**
- **Lift up the prophetic voice of the church, challenging unjust world powers and supporting nonviolent activists at risk in their work.**

## Pope Francis Condemns Nuclear Weapons

On November 10-11, 2017, the Vatican hosted a conference entitled "Perspectives for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament." A large delegation from Pax Christi was involved in the conference. During the gathering, Pope Francis gave a clear condemnation of nuclear weapons:

"Weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, create nothing but a false sense of security. They cannot constitute the basis for peaceful coexistence between members of the human family." This statement denotes a major departure from the Roman Catholic Church's prior acceptance of the Cold War-era global system of nuclear deterrence and mutually assured destruction. It should be noted that Pope Francis also criticized world leaders such as US President Donald Trump, who had openly threatened nuclear war with North Korea.

The Vatican is one of only three parties that have ratified the agreement. None of the nuclear powers and no NATO members have signed on to the measure to date.

At the conference, Pope Francis quoted Pres. Eisenhower: "Every gun that is made signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

Hundreds of corks have been collected and are in the process of being sent to our peace partner, Soles4Souls. Before we send them off, we are going to have a contest to see who can guess how many corks are in the bags! This will take place at our Christmas party on December 14. The person who comes closest to guessing the right number will win a bottle of wine.

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27**