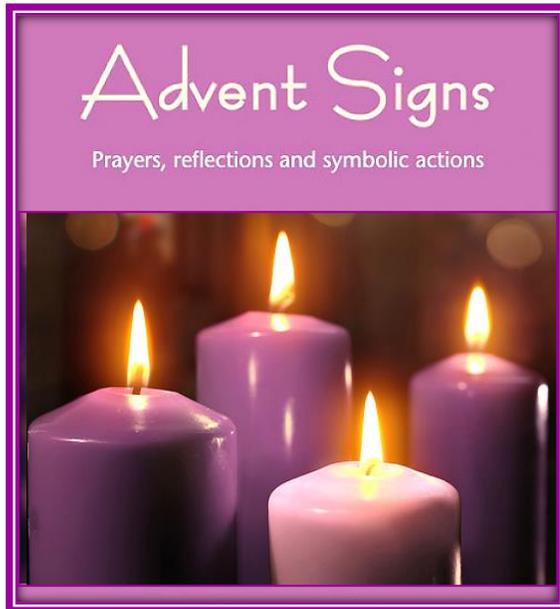




WHERE ARE YOUR ADVENT-SIGNS LEADING?



*Advent-signs should lead us (and others through us) closer to the Lord: the Christ of Christmas; the Christ who stands outside the door of our minds and hearts knocking and waiting; waiting for us to let Him in even more than a child waits to see what Santa Claus left for him under the Christmas Tree. In unlocking the door and letting Christ enter, our thoughts become (just like the cards that become Christmas cards, the cookies that become Christmas cookies, the lights that become Christmas lights, ...) not simply Christmas thoughts; they become *Christ's* thoughts. In truth we *have the mind of Christ!* (I Corinthians ii:16)*

What is the mind of Christ two thousand years after He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man? The mind of Christ is the same today as it was in the beginning, and

ever shall be: Love! Love of God! Love of you! Love of me! Love of our neighbour! (cf. Saint John III:16) If the Advent-signs you are following therefore, do not lead you to Love then you are following the wrong signs.

Follow the movie *It's A Wonderful Life* starring Jimmy Stewart, the book [The Christmas Hope](#) by Donna Vanliere, or even *A Charlie Brown Christmas* by Charles M. Schultz and you will be led to what it's all about: Love, the first gift of Christmas as readers discover in [The Christmas Box](#) by Richard Paul Evans.

True Advent-signs on the radio or the television, in movies or in books, may be hard to find but I assure you that such signs can still be found. **You** in fact are such a sign if you're in the classroom teaching children about Jesus; in the hospital room visiting and caring for the sick; at the Thrift Shop volunteering; in the soup kitchen feeding the hungry; in the kitchen baking Christmas cookies for the new neighbour across the street; at the desk writing a Christmas card to the Principal at Dodd Middle School; in a bedroom reading to a child before bed, in the Confessional giving absolution, and so many other "ordinary" places and things. "For some reason I had always assumed that when God wanted our attention He would do something big that would rouse us from our sleep to bring us back to Him, but I was wrong. God is always speaking. We are the ones who are hard of hearing. God is always patient, waiting for us to believe. We are the impatient ones, demanding to be convinced. We want something real, something we can touch and see to help us believe. The mountains, oceans, and skies aren't enough. Our babies who smile and laugh and reach for us aren't enough. We need more. And we have it, all around us every day. If we would just take the time to listen and see, we would walk toward God and believe, or at least some of us will. Some like me." ([The Christmas Hope](#))