

December 2024

# PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for  
Middle School and High School Students



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**  
UNITED STATES | CANADA      APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Produced for the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

in collaboration with [St. Joseph Ministries](#)

IN HONOREM PRINCIPIS APOSTOLICI PAULI VI

# December 2024

For Pilgrims of Hope

## Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering



Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.

## Introduce Intention

### The Intention

- For December, the Holy Father invites us to pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives
- We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

### The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://thepopevideo.org/>

# Sacred Scripture

- Read Psalm 119:105 or Jeremiah 6:16-19

**Note:** Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

## Reflection

by Jocelyn Marin, Communication Coordinator for PWPN

As we approach the Jubilee year, we pray that our faith is strengthened and that we learn to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives. May this transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope, walking with Jesus and one another.

A pilgrim is someone who journeys to a sacred place. Pope Francis invites us to reflect: How can we encounter Christ more deeply in our everyday lives? Without a daily encounter with Jesus—in prayer, the Sacraments, or through others—our faith can become empty. As St. Paul says, “If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal” (1 Cor 13:1). It is our relationship with Christ that fills our hearts with hope, which in turn sustains and strengthens our faith.

On my recent pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago, I experienced how vital it was to connect with Christ each day. Sometimes, this happened through Mass and the Eucharist; other times, it was through silent prayer as I walked, asking for strength to make it to my next destination. I felt Christ’s presence through the kind words of fellow pilgrims, particularly on days when I struggled physically or emotionally.

While my prayer life looked different than at home, I needed these daily encounters with Jesus to remind me He was with me, every step of the way. His presence gave me hope during the tough moments—whether facing physical challenges or difficult conversations with people whose views differed from mine.

This month, I invite you to consider how often you seek Christ’s guidance, mercy, and love. We are all called to be Pilgrims of Hope, journeying with Christ and others. Will you go to the One whom your soul loves? Jesus is waiting for you, ready to walk this journey alongside you.

# Saint Connection

St. James the Apostle, known as one of the Sons of Thunder, was a passionate and devoted follower of Christ who answered the call to leave everything and follow Him. As one of the first martyrs among the Apostles, St. James exemplified fearless faith in the face of persecution.

- Patron of Pilgrims: St. James is closely associated with the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage attracting countless souls seeking spiritual renewal and deeper communion with God.
- Zeal for the Gospel: His dedication to spreading the Gospel inspires believers to share their faith with boldness and conviction.
- Legacy of the Camino: The Camino de Santiago symbolizes life's pilgrimage—calling us to carry our crosses, follow in Christ's footsteps, and encounter God on our journey.

## Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on the monthly intention. Allow them to share their thoughts aloud.

- How can we follow Saint James' example of faith and pilgrimage in our own lives?
- What steps can we take to grow in hope and bring Christ's light to others?

## Extension Activities:

- Have students create a "pilgrimage" project where they set spiritual goals for the Jubilee Year, such as daily prayers, acts of kindness, or community service.

## Closing Prayer

- Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for the example of St. James the Greater and ask for his intercession as we strive to become pilgrims of Christian hope. Strengthen our faith and help us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives. May we spread your hope and love to everyone we encounter. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- End with the Sign of the Cross