

Saint Josephs and Saint Michaels

ADVENT 2017



Week 2

Our focus this week is
on those who have been bereaved,

The death of a loved one any time of year can shadow the whole Christmas season as we miss our normal interactions with that loved one, and several years later, though maybe the pangs aren't quite as sharp, they're still there, and it's not abnormal to be caught off guard by a memory or a longing leading to a good cry.



When loss seems too great to bear
God sends us friends to comfort us
To show that He deeply cares

But in the dark hours of the night
When there's nobody else around
When we feel the saddest and
loneliest
It's there God's love can be found

It's like a soothing, healing balm
To soothe our broken hearts
The healing oil poured over us
That flows into every part

We can rest secure in God's love
And know He's by our side
He holds us when we feel as though
A part of us has died

Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



Psalm 18:28 “You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

Psalm 18:2 “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Lord,

We pray for all who are feeling the pain of bereavement this Christmas,

Open their minds and hearts to your healing, the warmth, the light of your, presence,

Teach them to lean on you, Lord, and on each other for the strength they need and on each other, to walk these days of Christmas,

Be with them as they cry and sing their way through Christmas cards and carols; help them to find and open the present you bring: the gift of your peace in the birth of the child Jesus.

And give them quiet moments with you, with their thoughts, with their memories and prayers.

This is the Christmas you have made, Lord, the only one we'll have this year: help us all to rejoice in it and in the blessings of your peace.

Amen.