Gifts of Gratitude

2025

Advent with G.K. Chesterton

"There are few things more beautiful than gratitude."
- G.K. Chesterton

For G.K. Chesterton, gratitude was "the first virtue of living things," the beginning of his entire spirituality. From earliest childhood, he "felt grateful," though he "hardly knew to whom." His lifelong gratitude for the gift of human life, for all the gifts life brought each and every day, culminated in his faith in the One infinitely good Giver of all good gifts. In his every thought, deed, and prayer, Chesterton's first and chief sentiment was gratitude.

During this holy season of Advent, the Society of G.K. Chesterton invites you to gather and bring your own Gifts of Gratitude to Our Lord in the Manger. Chestertonian gratitude means giving thanks for big things as well as small: Christmas stockings and the gifts therein, but also the legs we put into our everyday stockings!

How to Participate

- **Sign up** online at **chesterton.org/advent** for a daily email with a Chesterton quote, a scripture reading, and a reflection to help you focus on the many gifts God has given you.
- On your **Advent Calendar**, write down a gift for which you are thankful each day of the season. Be specific and concrete. Focus on that gift, and allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with thankfulness. And then return that gratitude to God in prayer.
- Get the **whole family** involved. Hang the calendar in your home and invite each member to keep a list of daily gratitudes. Discuss them, and pray together in thanksgiving.
- Pray the **Litany of Gratitude**: You can pray this either throughout the season as a growing prayer, or save it until Christmas and pray it then. This is your Christmas List this year: not one of gifts you hope to buy or to ask Santa for, but a list of *just some* of the gifts you've already been given, and for which you owe God thanks.

This year, we'll approach the Manger to offer our daily Gifts of Gratitude to the Christ Child, He who is the greatest Gift of all.

A Litany of Gratitude

FOR PRIVATE USE ONLY

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE
2025 *Advent with G.K. Chesterton*

Lord, have mercy on us. **Christ, have mercy on us.**
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**
God, the Father of heaven, **have mercy on us.**
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us.**
God, the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**
Holy Trinity, One God, **have mercy on us.**

For the gift of life, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of Jesus, born to dwell among us, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of Mary, His mother, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of Joseph, His foster-father, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of the Holy Family, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of G.K. Chesterton, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of his example, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of his writings, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gifts he cherished, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of babies, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of daisies, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gifts of sunrise and sunset, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gifts of moonlight and starlight, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gifts of wonder and joy, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of seeing inconveniences as adventures, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of finding each day a gift, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of ___state your gratitude(s) here___ , **we give you thanks, O God.**
For every good gift, **we give you thanks, O God.**
For the gift of gratitude, **we give you thanks, O God.**

Let us pray. God our Father, you made the world with everything that is in it, and gave it to us for a gift. You sent your Son to restore what you had made, and to enable us to give you fitting thanks and praise. You guided G.K. Chesterton to remind us that everything we have is a gift, and that praise always begins in wonder and gratitude. Grant that we may never fail to be grateful, but enable us always and everywhere to give you thanks: through your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

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