

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

2026

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 gratitude for the gift of life, and for life's everyday gifts, culminated in his faith in the One infinitely good Giver of all good gifts.

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 Use This Calendar:

- **Sign up** online at **chesterton.org/advent** for additional advent tips, words of encouragement, and Chestertonian insights throughout the season, delivered right to your inbox!
- On this **Advent Calendar**, write down a gift for which you are thankful each day of the season. Be specific and concrete. Focus on each gift, allowing the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with thankfulness. Then, return that gratitude to God as a 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, pray together in thanksgiving, and thank one another for gifts great and small!
- Pray the **Litany of Gratitude**. You can use this prayer throughout the season as a growing litany, or save it until the Christmas season.

This Christmas, when we meet Christ in the Manger, Himself the greatest Gift of all, let us come ready with our gifts of gratitude: thanks for all the good things God gives, each and every day!


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DEC 2
DEC 6
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DEC 8
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DEC 21
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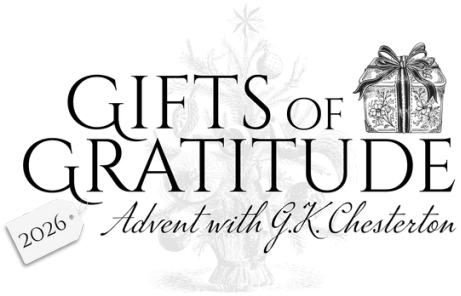
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LITANY OF GRATITUDE

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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 immaculate 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 every 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 good gifts, **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 begins in wonder and gratitude. Grant that we may never fail to be grateful, and 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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PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF G.K. CHESTERTON

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God our Father,

You filled the life of your servant Gilbert Keith Chesterton with a sense of wonder and joy, and gave him a faith which was the foundation of his ceaseless work, a hope which sprang from his enduring gratitude for the gift of human life, and a charity towards all men, particularly his opponents.

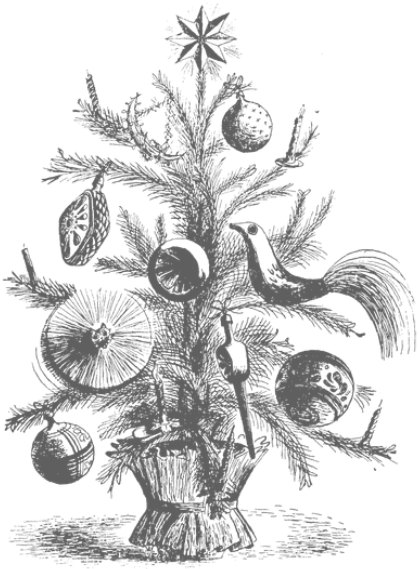
May his innocence and his laughter, his constancy in fighting for the Christian faith in a world losing belief, his lifelong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and his love for all men, especially for the poor, bring cheerfulness to those in despair, conviction and warmth to lukewarm believers and the knowledge of God to those without faith.

We beg you to grant the favors we ask through his intercession, *[and especially for ...]*, so that his holiness may be recognized by all and the Church may proclaim him Blessed.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



"GIVE THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS."
- EPHESIANS 5:20



Use the QR Code to sign up for extra Advent inspiration and tips for a grateful season!
chesterton.org/advent