

fourth SUNDAY OF ADVENT

■ LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ...
Come Lord Jesus, be our light!
Fill us with hope as we near the end of our Advent journey!*

■ READ THE GOSPEL for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle B) Luke 1:26-38

“But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.’”



Photo courtesy of SERRV

■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

It is hard to imagine the angel Gabriel saying to the Haitian people the words he said to Mary, “Do not be afraid,” after the massive earthquake struck there in 2010. Millions lost their loved ones, their homes and the lives they once knew. How could people who had lived through such a terrible emergency continue to bring hope to their families and communities?

The nativity shown here was made out of a coconut shell by artisans at Comite Artisanal Haitien, where Jean-Claude and nearly 200 other people work. This group of artists is an inspiring example of hope. Along with many artists throughout Haiti, this group turns common trash—even rubble—into beautiful works of art.

Selling their artwork helped the artists rebuild their homes and their communities. Jean-Claude and other artists in Haiti remind us to always remember God’s promise of hope, especially when we are afraid or when life seems impossible.

PRAY

God of every nation and people, as we look at this Holy Family, we pray for all families: those we know, and those we do not, those who live on the other side of the world, and those who live on the other side of the street. Amen

REFLECT

When have you experienced hope during a difficult time? How can you bring hope to someone else in need this Christmas?

ACT

Invite someone you know who may be having a difficult time over to share in a home cooked meal.

GIVE

Give a Catholic Relief Services Gift of Hope for Christmas to a family experiencing an emergency. Visit [gifts.crs.org](https://www.gifts.crs.org).