

**1<sup>st</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT, November 27, 2016**  
**Feast of the Apparition of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**  
*Sister Julie Cutter, DC*

**READINGS:**

**Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44**

The providential coincidence of the feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and the First Sunday of Advent invites us to explore both the promised coming of the Lord Jesus and the message of Mary to Catherine Labouré. The readings remind us that God will gather all nations in peace to build the Reign of God on earth.

**REFLECTION:**

In France of 1830, society was in an upheaval with unemployment, poverty, hunger, refugees seeking a better life, and violence on the streets. Mary appeared to Catherine Labouré and offered abundant graces to those who asked with faith and trust. The “miracles” included not only healing, jobs, and peaceful families, but also the gifts of patience, forgiveness, repentance, and deepened faith. The Advent readings call us to climb the path towards God’s promise, to put aside darkness in order to walk in the light of the Lord. And God promises the gift of peace.

**PRAYER:**

God of hope and peace, awaken our hearts and open our eyes to see people broken by poverty, hunger, racism, and those displaced by war and violence. Strengthen us to cast off the deeds of darkness that oppress people. Teach us how to respond in service.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recourse to you. Amen.

**TRY THIS TODAY:**

What sword of mine can be transformed into a plowshare? (Isaiah 2:4)