

DECEMBER 31 &
JANUARY 1, 2014-2015
NEW YEAR'S EVE &
NEW YEAR'S DAY

taking⁺
faith
home

All we enjoy is God's gift to us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Wednesday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord is doing a new thing
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	For everything a season
Friday	James 4:13-15	If it is the Lord's will
Saturday	Psalms 39:4-7	My hope is in you
Sunday	John 1:10-18	The Word became a human being

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

God's gift to us is the happiness we get from our food and drink and from the work we do. Ecclesiastes 3:13 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, give us thankful hearts and joyful hope as we begin this new year. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, for a year of many meals we give you praise; in the year to come please bless our days. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you and keep you in the year ahead. May he guide you in every season and every activity. Amen. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What were some of your "highs" from 2014? What were some of your "lows?"
- How did you experience God's love and care in the past year?
- What are some of your hopes and prayers for 2015?

DEVOTIONS

Set out 15 tea candles. Light all but one. Ask each household member, in turn, to complete this sentence: "*Thinking back on 2014, I thank God for _____.*" After each has shared, extinguish one candle. Continue until all the lit candles have been extinguished. Then light the last candle and say this prayer together:

Lord God, thank you for all the ways you blessed us in 2014. Please fill our hearts and our homes with happiness in the year to come. Amen.

SERVICE

Choose a particular cause or a charity to support as a household in the coming year. Discuss ways in which you can set aside or raise money to support the cause. Develop a plan of action to do so.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Gather items (e.g. award ribbons, vacation brochures, photos) from around your home that carry memories of the past year. Then have each household member write a "letter to God" about their lives over the past year or draw a picture representing the year. Place the letters, pictures and other items into a decorated shoe box, write the year number (2014) on the outside, and seal the box tight with tape. Agree together on how long it will be (e.g. 1, 5 or even 10 years) before the box is opened again. Then put the box away until it is time for its reopening. Pray the following blessing upon the box before putting it away:

Lord God, bless this box filled with good memories of 2014. May these memories inspire hope for a blessed 2015. Amen.



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