CONTENTS

Introduction, ix

WEEK ONE, 1

Setting the Stage: The Prophecies and the Hope

- Sunday: The New Elijah, 3
- Monday: "I Am Gabriel," 6
- Tuesday: Great Beginnings, 9
- Wednesday: Worldwide Blessing, 11
- Thursday: Son of David, 13
- Friday: Hope of the Nation, 15
- Saturday: The Return of the King, 18

WEEK Two, 21

Serving God's Plan: St. Joseph, Zechariah, and John the Baptist

- Sunday: Humble Royalty, 23
- Monday: Joseph—Silent Knight, Holy Knight, 25
- Tuesday: Old Joseph, New Joseph, 27
- Wednesday: Zechariah's Second Chance, 29
- Thursday: Benedictus, 31
- Friday: A Horn of Salvation, 34
- Saturday: True Freedom, 36

THE ADVENT OF CHRIST

WEEK THREE, 39

In Mary's Footsteps: Her Call and Her Journey of Faith

- Sunday: Troubling Words, 41
- Monday: Favor With God, 43
- Tuesday: What Child Is This?, 45
- Wednesday: Mary's Fiat, 47
- Thursday: Blessed Among Women, 50
- Friday: The Ark of the Covenant, 53

WEEK FOUR (December 17-23), 57

From Nazareth to Bethlehem: The Joys and Sorrows of the Holy Family

- December 17: The Magnificat, 58
- December 18: God Remembers, 60
- December 19: Song of the Church, 62
- December 20: Royal Decree, 65
- December 21: The City of David, 68
- December 22: No Room for Jesus, 70
- December 23: Emmanuel, 72

CHRISTMAS, 75

Witnesses to the Mystery: The Shepherds, the Magi, and Simeon

- December 24, Christmas Eve: A Night to Remember, 77
- December 25, Christmas Day: The Birth of the Messiah, 79
- December 26: The True Shepherd, 81
- Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family: In His Father's House, 83

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- December 27, Feast of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist: Behold the Lamb, 85
- December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents: Rachel Weeps, 87
- December 29: A New Moses, 89
- December 30: Back to Nazareth, 92
- December 31: "Comfort, Comfort My People," 94
- January 1, Feast of the Mother of God: Pierced by a Sword, 96
- Feast of the Epiphany: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, 98

Notes, 101