

# First Sunday of Advent

## November 27, 2016

### TODAY

- Nursery (Room #102) during the 10:30 Mass
- High School Sunday Night Live 7pm

### MONDAY | Nov. 28

Is 4:2-6 / Mt 8:5-11

- Men's Bible Study (Room #101) 7am

### TUESDAY | Nov. 29

Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24

- Mass in Chapel (+Alex & Helen Makowski) 8:30am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel) 9am-7pm
- 50+ Meijer Garden 9:30am
- Mom's Support Group (McDuffee) 7pm

### WEDNESDAY | Nov. 30 | St. Andrew, Apostle

Rom 10:9-18 / Mt 4:18-22

- Elementary Religious Ed 4 & 6pm
- Mass in Chapel (+Johan Balkon) 6:30pm
- Cantor Practice 6:30pm
- Choir Practice 7pm
- Usher's Captains' Meeting (PC LL #1) 7pm
- Capital Campaign Committee Meeting (McDuffee) 7:15pm

### THURSDAY | Dec. 1

Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27

- Ladies Bible Study (DH) 9:30am
- Deanery Meeting (DH) 1pm
- K of C General Membership Meeting (DH) 7pm

### FRIDAY | Dec. 2

Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31

- Mass in Chapel (+Wanda Lyons) 8:30am
- First Friday Breakfast (DH) 9am
- Safe Haven Middle School Cookie Bake (DH) 6:30pm

### SATURDAY | Dec. 3 | St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 30:19-21, 23-26 / Mt 9:35-10:1, 5-8

- That Man is You! (DH) 6am
- Middle School Service Projects (DH) throughout the day
- Baptisms Outside of Mass (Church) 3pm
- Reconciliation/Confessions (Church) 4-4:45pm
- Contemporary Choir Practice (Church) 4:30pm

### LORD'S DAY LITURGIES | December 4, 2016

## Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 / Rom 15:4-9 / Mt 3:1-12

### 5:30pm Saturday

+Dave Harnish

### 8:30am Sunday

+Patricia Deuling

+Isabelle Everitt

### 10:30am Sunday

Parish Family

### Also on Dec. 3 & 4

- Poinsettia Pick Up ~ after all Masses
- Coffee & Donuts with St. Nicholas (DH) ~ after Sunday Masses
- Confirmation Night with Sponsors (DH) ~ 6pm on Sunday
- High School Sunday Night Live ~ 7pm on Sunday



REAL PEOPLE + REAL PRESENCE

## PREPARE and SURRENDER

"Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." — Mt 24:40-42



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## Practicing Faith

**Beginning were we left off.** Each year, the new season of Advent begins where we left the past liturgical year. We ponder the coming of Jesus Christ the Second Time. We do this in prayer, in action, in anticipation. We wait for this unknown time, but not in fear. So, how do we stay ready? By **not** doing the bad things listed in the Second Reading (Romans 13:11-14). By doing the list of **merciful** things we practiced all last year. The Jubilee Year of Mercy is not a "one and done" year. It was rehearsal for this new year of grace.

- Let us resolve to hear the Gospel of Matthew attending to compassion, justice, and mercy.
- Let us keep before us the works of mercy.
- Let us "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

**Prepare for next Sunday:** Read and reflect on the Second Sunday of Advent (beginning on pg. 35) in the "Living Liturgy" missal.

**ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH**

3937 Wilson Ave. SW | Grandville, MI 49418  
 616-532-9344 | Fax: 616-538-6340  
[www.spxcatholic.org](http://www.spxcatholic.org)

**Parish & Formation Office Hours:**

9-Noon; 1-5pm Mon-Thurs 9-Noon on Fridays  
 (Formation Summer Hours: 9:30-4:30pm Monday-Thursday)

**Parish Book of Prayer** — This book near the main church entrance is for your prayers of intercession or gratitude. They are part of the intentions at Mass.

**Parish Membership** — Count yourself in! If you worship with us regularly, kindly register as a parishioner. You'll receive parish mailings, and it will help us provide pastoral care should you need it. Contact 532-9344; or [parishoffice@spxcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@spxcatholic.org).

**Infant Baptisms** are celebrated at various times throughout the year. If you believe raising your child in our Catholic faith is one of your most important duties as a parent, call the parish office.

**Sacrament of Marriage** — The lifelong covenant between a man and a woman is a sign of God's covenant with us. At least six months of prayer and preparation are needed before entering this commitment. Please contact Fr. Chris as soon as you are engaged. Couples celebrating an anniversary ending in a "0" or "5" may request a special blessing.

OTHER MARRIAGE RESOURCES: [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/)

**Pastoral Care of the Sick** — If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound, or anticipating surgery, please contact Rosemary Beahan or Fr. Chris in the parish office. The hospitals do not contact us.

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Rev. Chris Rouech** | Pastor  
 532-9344, ext. 107 | [frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)

**Marilyn Beckwith** | Business Manager  
 532-9344, ext. 102 | [businessmanager@spxcatholic.org](mailto:businessmanager@spxcatholic.org)

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 532-9344, ext. 103 | [arebollar@spxcatholic.org](mailto:arebollar@spxcatholic.org)

**Rosemary Beahan** | Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care, Outreach & Christian Initiation  
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 532-9344, ext. 136 | [music@spxcatholic.org](mailto:music@spxcatholic.org)

**Jane Goudelock** | Administrative Assistant  
 532-9344, ext. 101 | [parishoffice@spxcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@spxcatholic.org)

**FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

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 538-2600, ext. 122 | [epost@spxcatholic.org](mailto:epost@spxcatholic.org)

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**Kim Lobert** | Director of Maintenance  
 538-2600, ext. 116 | [maintenance@spxcatholic.org](mailto:maintenance@spxcatholic.org)

**An Advent View from 40th & Wilson**

FR. CHRIS ROUECH  
[frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)



*"There is an appointed time for everything."*

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

**THE ABOVE QUOTE** is from the official Catholic translation of the Book of Ecclesiastes, [the New American Bible, Revised Edition](#).

Other bibles translate "appointed time" simply as "season." But when I think about the liturgical season now upon us, "appointed time" is more apt.

From now until the sun sets on Dec. 24, we are in the Advent, the time of "devout and joyful expectation" for the coming of Jesus Christ.

I like the phrase "appointed time," because the spiritual practices appointed by the Church during Advent feel so different than what the secular "holidays" encourage us to do.

One obvious difference we see is how the church is decorated. Instead of reds and greens, the liturgical color for Advent is purple — conveying penance and preparation. (Except for on the third week of Advent, when the official color is rose, to convey rejoicing because we've made it halfway through.)

The more subdued appearance of our sanctuary is intended to influence us outside of Mass. That's because as John the Baptist warns us, none of us will live forever. For all we know, the world could end tomorrow. Are you ready?

Another difference between the secular "holidays" and Advent, is what we are supposed to do with our time.

Advent invites us to be especially prayerful, "devout." That's why the parish has mailed each registered household a packet that contains the "Little Blue Book" of daily meditations for the season.

But being prayerful is more challenged when we have more

tasks to accomplish and more activities to attend. I think that's what the Advent and Christmas theme this year tries to convey: Prepare and Surrender. There really is only so much one can do before they must let go and trust God.

The one realm where Advent and the secular holidays do compliment each other is the emphasis on giving. I was so heartened to see all but a few tags taken from our Advent Giving Tree after last week's Masses.

**Here are a few facts about this special "appointed season":**

★ **Advent comes from the Latin word for "arrival" or "coming."**

★ **Advent launches a new liturgical year.** This is the Year of Matthew, in the three-year cycle of Lectionary readings. This means we will be hearing excerpts from the Gospel of Matthew at most of our Lord's Day Masses between now and Nov. 26, 2017.



★ **No Christmas Carols**

Christmas carols are not sung in church during Advent. That's not because we're Scrooges — it's to make Christmas more special. (That's also why we don't have poinsettias in church yet.) One of the most ancient chants of the church, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is often sung during Advent.

★ **Advent Wreath**

The evergreen circle signifies eternity. The candles symbolize Christ as the light of the world. The custom of lighting an Advent wreath actually began in people's homes, and is not an official part of the Roman Catholic liturgy beyond the first Sunday of Advent, when the wreath is blessed. Page five of this bulletin has a prayer to bless the Advent wreath in your home.







## Faith Formation | Religious Education

ELIZABETH POST  
epost@spxcatholic.org

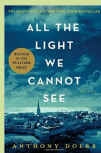
**NATIVITY PROGRAM** is on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30pm in the church. Please mark your calendars to support our students in the story of Jesus' birth. All are welcome!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE ~ Sunday 5:30-7:30pm

- Nov. 27 ~ No Edge
- Dec. 3 ~ Middle School Day of Service
- Dec. 4 ~ 8th Graders & Confirmation Sponsors ~ 6-8pm
- Dec. 11 ~ New Testament

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DAY OF SERVICE:** This year our middle schoolers will be serving St. Ann's, Medilodge, Degage, Safe Haven and In the Image. Permission slips are due by Nov. 28.

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES & SPONSORS:** All those in their second year of Confirmation preparation, and their sponsors need to attend our Sponsor/Candidate night on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 6-8pm. The evening will take place in Danner Hall and includes dinner.



**NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB** meets at 7pm Monday, Dec. 5 at 7pm in McDuffee to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Contact Linda Stray (249-8034 or lindastray@yahoo.com) or Mary Boehm (538-9635 or meb2904@aol.com) with inquires.

### UPDATED MEDIA CENTER & POSTER CONTEST!

Have you ever wanted a "good Catholic read?" What could be better than a stop into the Media Center to check out some new items...books, cds, and dvds. Take the opportunity to make some suggestions for materials as well or sign up to staff the center before or after Masses.

While you are there...pick up a poster sheet for the **Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest**. The contest is open to children ages 5-14. Entry forms, rules, and the poster paper are all rolled up and ready to have your child create their own Christmas masterpiece. Entries should be returned to the media center by Dec. 11. Winners of each age group will receive \$25 and their poster will be sent on to the district competition for judging in January. Your child's artwork could be the design used for next year's contest.

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS BILLBOARDS** are scattered throughout West Michigan. Our Knights of Columbus Council's billboard will be located on Chicago Drive, east of Wilson Ave and be seen by thousands of people that pass from the end of November to the start of the New Year. Thank you to the Knights who donated to this billboard fund.

## Keep Christ in Christmas!



St. Pius X  
Council #14598 • Grandville

## High School Youth Ministry

ASHLEY ROTTMAN  
arottman@spxcatholic.org



**WINTER RETREAT PLANNING MEETING** for the December retreat will be on Sunday, Nov. 27 in the youth room after the 10:30am Mass for those who signed up to lead the retreat.

**GAME & MOVIE NIGHT~ Nov. 27 ~ 7-8:30pm:** Join us for a relaxed night of Kamps, board games and movies. End your Thanksgiving weekend in the fellowship of friends.



**PARENTS DAY OUT ~ Dec. 10 ~ 2-5pm:** The holiday season heralds a flurry of activity for families. The teens at St. Pius X would like to give parents a few kid-free hours to relax, have a date, Christmas shop, or even take a nap!

**SNL RELATIONSHIPS ~ Dec. 11 ~ 7-8:30pm:** We will finish our series on different relationships that shape our lives. Join us as we explore the significance of our family, friends and significant others.



## Pastoral Care, Outreach & Initiation

ROSEMARY BEAHAN  
rbeahan@spxcatholic.org

**HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** Are you struggling and wondering how your family will get through the holidays? Will there be gifts under the tree for the children? We can help...call the Parish Office; information is kept confidential.

**Advent & Christmas**  
**PREPARE and SURRENDER**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Coffee & Donuts with St. Nicholas ~ Dec. 4 (after all Masses)
- Women's Advent Night + Dec. 6 ~ 6:30pm
- Immaculate Conception Masses  
Dec. 7 ~ 7pm & Dec. 8 ~ Noon
- Parent's Day Out ~ Dec. 10 ~ 2-5pm
- Faith Formation Nativity Program ~ Dec. 13 ~ 6:30pm
- Communal Penance Service ~ Dec. 15 ~ 7pm

## Parish Life

ANDY REBOLLAR  
arebollar@spxcatholic.org



**OUR NEXT DONUT DATE** will be Sunday, Dec. 4 with a special visit from St. Nicholas.

**TMII:** The last two sessions of the semester will be Dec. 3 & 10. We'll have hot breakfasts as a special treat on those dates.

**ADVENT RETREAT:** Are you looking for a way to connect with God on a deeper level this Advent, but too busy to get away? Consider being a part of our Advent retreat. Retreatants commit to daily prayer and a weekly meeting with a spiritual director. Space is limited; if interested, contact me at 532-9344 or via email.

### 50+ UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov. 29: Meijer Gardens | Christmas Around the World ~ 9:30am**  
See the trees decorated from around the world. The bus will leave St. Pius X at 9:30am, head out for lunch afterward, and return by 2pm. Tickets for Meijer Gardens are \$10; RSVP to the Parish Office by Nov. 27.

### Dec. 8 | Advent Brunch ~ 9:30am

The 50+ Group will join forces with the Ladies Bible Study for an Advent Brunch on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 9:30am in Danner Hall. If possible, bring a brunch type dish to pass. RSVP to the parish office by Dec. 5. Those attending are invited to stay for Mass at Noon.

**PARISH APP ROLLOUT TEAM NEEDED:** St. Pius X will be rolling out a parish app through MyParish App in the coming months, and we're looking for a few enthusiastic parishioners willing to be a part of the team. It would be two meetings leading up to the roll out and then help with the roll out weekend. All ages are welcome and no technical experience is needed, just enthusiasm, a smart phone, and a willingness to help promote. If interested, email me or call 532-9344.

## Mass Assignments for Dec. 3 & 4

Mass Coord.	5:30pm	8:30am	10:30am
	Mary Carter	Tony & Sandy Grandy	Linda DiCesare
Greeters	Wendy Charboneau Denise Doyle Rosemary Holzgen <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Betty Cole Gail Greco-Bieri Ren Hanselman Pat VanderVeen	Marsha Doxey Dick & Marianne Gebraad Donna Huyge
Servers	Anne Slezak Emi Zielinski Lily Zielinski	Gino Bartone John Lawrence Olivia Miars	Jonathan Fuller Emma Kusmierski Noah Kusmierski
Eucharistic Ministers	Mattie Conlon Nancy Hoekstra Angie Lemont Harold Lemont Barbara Sawicki Melissa Seguin Monica Tyler <b>2 Volunteers Needed</b>	Ellen Halfmann Deb Lampani Steven LeQuia Debra Neff Tara Pankratz Mary Rademacher Janine Skavnak Elaine Szarowicz Karen Tonnig	Chris Koetsier Jim Kohmescher Jen Meyerling Pat Milanowski Mike Miller Kris Phillips Jacob Ruemenapp Kate Ruemenapp Debbie Shereda Tom Shereda Mike Signore Nick Sundstrom Paul Sundstrom
Lector	Andrew Smith Amy Charboneau	Lynn Zabler Angie Zylstra	Bob Becker Rachel Provost
LWC			Kathy Fredrickson
	Usher Team: B	Usher Team: D	Usher Team: G

## LADIES ADVENT NIGHT ~ Tuesday, Dec. 6 ~ 6:30-8:30pm

Mark your calendars and share in an evening of music and fellowship. Take a break from baking, shopping, planning, and stressing. Join us in some spiritual renewal as we begin this busy season! This year's entertainment will be Lori Vernon, a talented speaker, mother, and liturgist from the Grand Rapids area. Guest sign-ups are this weekend. Tables are limited, so sign up early. Questions? Contact Stephanie Miranda at 616-430-0292 or mirandafamily101010@gmail.com



real people + real presence

## Growing in Christ Weekly Stewardship Report

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** On this first Sunday of Advent, Jesus urges his disciples to stay awake and prepare themselves for the Lord's coming. Good stewards prepare themselves and await Christ's judgment in joyous expectation. This kind of attitude requires genuine spiritual maturity, the kind that is cultivated by prayer, participation in the sacraments, loving attention to family and one's communion of faith, and love for one's neighbor. Are we prepared for the Lord's second coming? Are we ready to receive Christ? Are we ready to look joyously for Christ's judgment? ~ from the ICSC Catholic Stewardship November 2016 e-bulletin

## Time and Talent

### MASS ATTENDANCE

Nov. 19 & 20: 5:30pm—238 | 8:30am—294 | 10:30am—581

### CHRISTIAN SERVICE FOOD PANTRY ~ CHRISTMAS

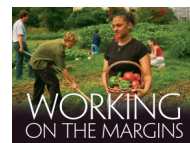
Please remember the Food Service Pantry when shopping for your holiday meals...we will be servicing those in need with a Christmas basket. Thank you!

**ALTAR SERVERS FOR FUNERALS:** We are in need of adults to be altar servers for funerals. Please consider joining this much needed and appreciated ministry. Contact Rosemary Beahan in the Parish Office at 532-9344 or [rbeahan@spxcatholic.org](mailto:rbeahan@spxcatholic.org)

## Treasure

### CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The CCHD supports programs to fight the root causes of poverty and social injustice in America. Envelopes will be available this weekend at Mass or in your envelope packet. Thank you in advance for your support of this important outreach of the Church. For more information about the CCHD collection and the groups it funds, please visit [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).



PARISH SUPPORT	Last week 11/19&11/20	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Fiscal Year 2016-17   Week 21/52			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 15,394	\$255,366	\$ 260,083
Electronic Giving <a href="http://spxcatholic.org">spxcatholic.org</a>	\$ 3,183	\$ 89,481	\$ 88,175
Youth Envelopes	\$ 17	\$ 99	\$ 79
Loose Offerings	\$ 525	\$ 13,290	\$ 12,916
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 19,119</b>	<b>\$358,236</b>	<b>\$361,253</b>
Budget Overage/(Shortfall)	\$ 1,049	\$ (20,753)	\$ -
OTHER GIVING			
Master's Mission	\$ 680	\$ 14,761	\$ 14,110
Special Coll: Human Development	\$ 841	\$ 841	

St. Pius X has 953 registered households. Last week, 300 contributed either by using an offertory envelope or electronically. Every gift is gratefully received as a sacrifice united with Christ's own self-offering in the Eucharist to share God's love.



## Our prayer list for healing

Please continue to pray for the following and all the sick in our Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound, and those in care facilities. To be included on the Prayer Chain (separate from this bulletin list), call Jason George at (231) 736-7487.

Linda Padula	Gerry Dekkinga	Bob Brock	Joe Capriglione
Kenneth Schumacher	Mary LaSarge	Judy DeVoe	Erika Yonker
Kelsey Gibson	Andre Miles	Ron Geldersma	Marie Nevins
Robert Kasperlik	Catherine Cesare	Diane & Mary Prindle	Andy Wierzicki
Joe Lemont	Henry Visscher	Betty DiTrapani	Mike Sartorius
Beverwyk Family	Joe & Margaret Grandy	Rose Reilly	Clara Raaymakers
Anthony McAndrew	M. Forrester	Laurie Bialik	Gina Catania
Jennifer Hassell	Marty Schumacker	Bill Paumier	Christopher Thrall
Mick Vaughn	John Stoddard	Carol Guffy	Bob & Holly Ann Ott
Ben Baird	Derek Bull	Shannon Olman	Diane Austin
Rich Hubbard	Stephen Meurer	Dorothy Rennager	James Raap
Kathy Maslowski	Charles & Mag Frodl	Patrick Bartz	Ilene Topolinski
Deb Russo	Tom & Becky Hoffmann	Ellen O'Toole	Sarah Johnson
Catherine Owens	Mike Connell	Peggy Galt	Justin Vriezema
Jeff Zylstra	Mary Jebb	Markell Barnhart	Lindsey Read
Marlene Strong	Mary Beth Jensen	Pat Rummer	Robert Ryzanca
Cindy Cole	Megan Reynolds	Chris VanderSlice	Mary Benson-Slosser
Jill Moyer	Jim & Mary Ann Norcutt	Leo Raap	Deb Finnigan
Nell Wouters	Allen Mulligan	Jim Stotenbur	Marion & Marie Rythowski
Brianne Bassett	Matt Rich	Bob Bagin	Ken Jenkins
Tom Wojtas	Joe & Winnie Kulaga	Jonathan Kolenda	Sandy Ressel
Kerry Deboer	Donna Waters	Cindy Thrall	John Blanchard
Sr. Jean Marie Wojtas	Pat DeJong	Norm Pokora	Linda Wood
Terri Bernott	Clara Jo Braybrook	Barbara Barney	Zachary Matzke
Ann Berg	Jane Voss	Karen Bourassa	Pam Willemstein
Arlene Dzwonkowski	Tom Villemure	Judy Perrin	Alberta & Vito Licari
Cleo Ruppel	J.D. Sypniewski	Rylie Rau	Pat Grzybowski
Christopher Alighire	Jerry Piela	Larry Kietzman	Judy Wojtas

### Please keep in your prayers

those who celebrated the Rite of Welcoming through RCIA last weekend! Our Catechumens, seeking initiation into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are:



### Matthew Allen Ford & Joseph Roszell

Our Candidates, already one with us through Baptism, wishing to be full members of the Catholic faith through Confirmation and the Eucharist are:

**Jaimee Blanchette**  
**Doug Burns**  
**Greg Fisher**  
**Gabriel Ford**  
**Matthew Donald Ford**

**Jessica Fontan**  
**Hanna Hall**  
**Ted Smith**  
**Emma Wiest**  
**Jackson Wiest**



Congratulations to Joseph & Alayna (Manning) Feathery who entered into the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, Nov. 19. May the love and joy you share with each other lead you (and others) closer to Christ.

## Advent Wreath Blessing

One of the best known customs for the season of Advent is the German tradition of the Advent Wreath. Although it has no direct liturgical significance, this wreath of evergreens and glowing candles is rich in a symbolism based on its own traditional usage.

**The wreath** (a circle) is the symbol of eternity; **the evergreens**, of the eternal life and the immutability of God; **the purple or deep blue candles** of penance; the **rose candle**, of the joy of Gaudete Sunday; and the **number of candles** of the four weeks in Advent and the thousands of years that the world waited for the Redeemer. The blessing of the Advent Wreath takes place on the first Sunday of Advent. Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent, when our focus shifts from preparing for Jesus' return at the end of time, to rejoicing as we anticipate the Christmas feast.

### The Blessing

✚ *All make the sign of the cross*

*Leader:* Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

*All:* **Who made heaven and earth.**

*Leader:* In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

*Then someone reads aloud the passage Isaiah 9:1-2 from the Bible.*

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord *All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession, followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

*Then the leader invites:*

**Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.**

*After a short silence, the leader prays:*

Lord our God,  
 We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
 He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
 he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
 he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,  
 let your blessing come upon us  
 as we light the candles of this wreath.  
 May the wreath and its light  
 be a sign of Christ's promise  
 to bring us salvation.  
 May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

*The first candle is then lit.*

*The leader says:* Let us bless the Lord.

*All respond, making the sign of the cross*

**Thanks be to God. ✚**

*The blessing may conclude with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*



