

Celebrate!

December

Dec. 6 — St. Nicholas

His generosity became embodied in the modern-day Santa Claus. Leave a small gift of candy or a prayer card for you children in their shoes. Kids: leave one for your parents.

Dec. 8 — Immaculate Conception

Attend Mass on this holy day of obligation.

Dec. 12 — Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Patroness of all the Americas (including islands in the south Atlantic Ocean all the way to the northern points of Greenland), the apparition site of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the most popular pilgrimage site for Catholics in the world. Appearing to a very poor man named Juan Diego in the 16th century, Our Lady's appearance is credited with leading the people of Mexico to convert to Catholicism. Pick a country in the Western Hemisphere you know little about and learn about its people; then pray to Our Lady for them.



Dec. 17 — O Antiphons begin

These antiphons focus on the coming of the Lord for the next seven days. Go to this web link to learn more: <http://bit.ly/OAntiphonsTCK>

Dec. 25 — Jesus' Birthday

You might call it Christmas, but don't forget what the day really celebrates.

Dec. 30 — Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Do something fun as a family today.



Advent Wreath Prayer

Say this prayer as you light each candle of your Advent wreath at mealtimes:

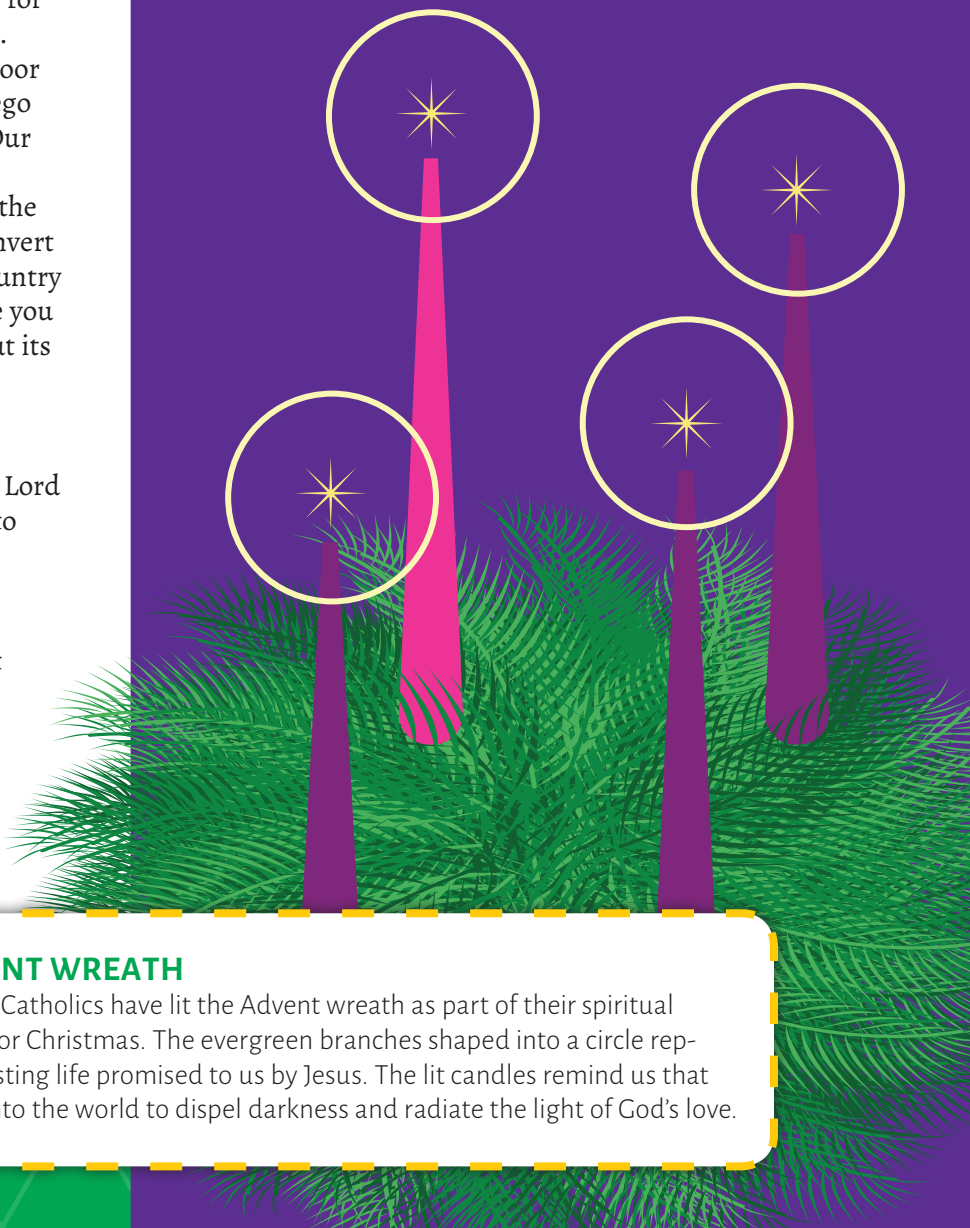
ALL WEEKS: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light! (see Is 9:1-2)

WEEK 1: God of compassion, be with us in these long and dark days as we await the birth of your son, Jesus. Amen.

WEEK 2: God of salvation, help us give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

WEEK 3: God of salvation, help us give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

WEEK 4: God of blessings, we celebrate your good gifts and rejoice at the gift of your son, Jesus. Amen.



THE ADVENT WREATH

For centuries Catholics have lit the Advent wreath as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The evergreen branches shaped into a circle represent everlasting life promised to us by Jesus. The lit candles remind us that Jesus came into the world to dispel darkness and radiate the light of God's love.