

Spirituality Report – December 2025

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Thanksgiving is over and the leftovers still linger. Christmas trees in people's windows and outdoor decorations seemed to have sprung up overnight. Christmas sales in stores started even before Halloween candy was off the shelves. Black Friday was a huge day for any commercial business. Is this what Christmas means? Sales, Decorations, Trees, Lights? One of those is correct...Light, for "Light of the World". Jesus is the Light we need to focus on during this time of year, the Season of Advent.

The first thing I set up this weekend was our Advent Wreath. Right now, no candles are lit, it is completely dark. As each week comes, 1 more candle will be lit. The light becomes brighter as we approach the birth of our Savior. He is the light that shines in the darkness, the darkness of our lives. If we turn our gaze to Jesus this season and allow Him to enter into our hearts, we will become like Him and show others "The Light".

According to *Dynamiccatholic.com*, each candle has a name and represents something. The first candle is "The Prophecy Candle" for Hope. The Old Testament prophets had hope and anticipation for the coming of the Savior. What is our hope this year? What do we want Jesus to do in our lives?

The second candle is "The Bethlehem Candle" representing Peace. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, which may not have been peaceful. However, I'm sure they still had a calm about them knowing God had a plan and they were following it, not knowing what to expect. Are we following God's plan in our lives peacefully, or are we expecting a certain outcome that may not be what God has in store for us?

"The Shepherd's Candle", Joy, is the third candle. This candle is rose colored as the others are all violet. Rose symbolizes rejoicing known as "Gaudete Sunday". The shepherds were joyful when they heard the news of the birth of Jesus. What joy is Jesus wanting you to experience this season?

Love, "The Angel's Candle", is the fourth and final candle on our wreath. God shows us so much love through the birth of His Son, Jesus, at Christmas. Jesus truly is the Light of the World and brings an infinite love of the Father to us upon His birth. How much love can we bring to others this Advent?

May you all have a wonderful and blessed Advent Season as you light each candle on your wreaths and bring "The Light of the World" into each of your homes, hearts, and families!