



The Advent Wreath

The word Advent means, “coming.” We begin a new *Church Year* with the season of **Advent**. In this season we prepare for and celebrate Christ’s coming in three ways:

- ❖ the **birth of Jesus of Nazareth**, His coming that **first** Christmas Day.
- ❖ we look to be open to the ways he comes to us
“Emmanuel, God with us” in **our heart** and **through the people around us today**.
- ❖ we look forward in **hope** to God’s coming in the fullness of time... **The second coming of Jesus Christ**.

The Advent Wreath is a very familiar devotion that we use in Church and in our homes to prepare for Christ’s coming. An Advent Wreath is NOT a table decoration! It is a sacred object (*Sacramental*) we bless and use each day to help us prepare for Christ’s coming.

It is a ring of evergreens with four candles. The **circle** implies that **God is eternal**; he has no beginning or end! The **evergreens** speak of **eternal life** for all who hope in God. Christ is the *Light of the World* and we are called to share that light! We use four candles to represent the four weeks of Advent, the light becoming brighter as we approach Christ’s incarnation. We light one candle for each of the four weeks. **Purple** reminds us of our waiting and **getting ready** for Jesus’ coming; a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice and the **pink\rose**, lit during the third week, helps us **rejoice** that Christ’s coming is near.

The Blessing of the Advent Wreath

*This blessing is done on the First Sunday of Advent prior to lighting the wreath for the first time.
You can dim the lights in the room and sprinkle your wreath with Holy Water as you bless it.*

We begin with the Sign of the Cross +

Leader: Just as the world waited in darkness for the Messiah, the light of the world, we wait in the ever-darkening days of winter for the coming of Jesus.

Reader: *A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of shadow, a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Lord, ✚ bless our Advent wreath and our Advent prayer. Remind us daily of all who wait in darkness for your coming. Give each of us the courage to make your light shine forth in the world.

We ask this in the name of your Son, whose coming we await.

~ *Family Prayers for Family Times*
Kathleen O’Connell Chesto

Prayers to Pray while Lighting the Advent Wreath

****Each evening begin your prayer with the Sign of the Cross ✝*

Week 1

One purple candle is lit this week.

**Come, Lord Jesus,
Come and be born in our hearts.
Isaiah promised us a light to shine in our darkness.
Teach us to wait in patience and to prepare with joy.**

*One child is chosen to light the candle each night. This child will also
extinguish the candle at the end of the meal, and say to the family:
Carry the light in your hearts... Amen*

Week 2

This week light the first purple candle and a new one.

**Come, Lord Jesus,
Come be born in our hearts.
John the Baptist, you announced the coming of Jesus.
Teach us to wait in patience and to prepare with joy.**

*Continue the practice of having the children light the candles each night,
then extinguish them at the end of the meal saying:
Carry the light in your hearts... Amen*

Week 3

*Light the candles from the two previous weeks along with the pink one. This
is Gaudete Sunday, when the readings anticipate the joy of the birth of Jesus.*

**Come, Lord Jesus,
Come and be born in our hearts.
Joseph, you trusted Mary, supporting and protecting her.
Teach us to wait in patience and prepare with joy.**

*Extinguish the candles saying:
Carry the light in your hearts... Amen*

Week 4

All four candles are lit this week.

**Come, Lord Jesus,
Come and be born in our hearts.
Mary, you believed, and trusted, and waited on the lord.
Teach us to wait in patience and prepare with joy.**

*Extinguish the candles saying:
Carry the light in your hearts... Amen*

*~ Taken from
Family Prayers for Family Times
Kathleen O'Connell Chesto*

2020 Gospel Themed Advent Wreath Prayers
*These Advent Wreath prayers offer a different option
inviting us to delve deeper into the Gospel read at each Sunday's Liturgy*



*****Each evening begin your prayer with the Sign of the Cross +**

Week 1 *One purple candle is lit this week.*

Leader: **O God, who asks us to be watchful and alert because we do not know when you will come, let this candle give us light and help us stay awake. At those times when we you ask us to act, give us strength to respond at once. Through Christ our Lord,**

All: **Amen**

Week 2 *This week light the first purple candle and a new one.*

Leader: **O God, who sent John The Baptist to proclaim a baptism of repentance, let these two candles prepare the way for the Lord within us. Forgive our sins and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Make us ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Through Christ our Lord,**

All: **Amen**

Week 3 *Light the candles from the two previous weeks along with the pink one. This is Gaudete Sunday, when the readings anticipate the joy of the birth of Jesus.*

Leader: **O God, who sent John The Baptist as a voice crying out in the desert, open our ears to hear his message as we light the pink candle. Shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you. Make us ready to greet your Son when he comes to us. Through Christ our Lord,**

All: **Amen**

Week 4 *All four candles are lit this week.*

Leader: **O God, who sent your angel Gabriel to announce good news to Mary, make us happy with your word of life. Let our hearts be so filled with love for you that they glow with the lights of these four candles. May we live in a way that will please you. Through Christ our Lord,**

All: **Amen**

~Shared by
Nativity Catholic Church
Burke, VA