

# Advent Symbols

AND WHAT THEY MEAN



The evergreen circle and four candles of the **ADVENT WREATH** reflect the passage of the Advent season. It is often blessed at the beginning of Mass on the first Sunday of Advent.

Although not a season of penance, **RECONCILIATION** finds a special place in Advent as we prepare for Christmas and seek to approach Jesus' coming with hearts free of sin and filled with praise.

**"If you have something dark in your soul, ask the Lord for forgiveness. Christmas is a great opportunity to cleanse the soul!"**

POPE FRANCIS



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#AdventTO

Advent is a time of **LONGING AND WAITING** for the Lord to come. Premature decoration of the church building and early use of Christmas songs at liturgy compromise the spirit of expectation.



**VIOLET VESTMENTS** reflect longing and anticipation, not penance. **Rose vestments** may be used on the third (Gaudete) Sunday to signal the mid-point of the season.

The **GLORY TO GOD** is not sung and the organ and other musical instruments are used in moderation to allow us to anticipate the full joy of December 25th, when they are taken up again.

Flowers may be used, but in moderation so as to leave a sense of abundance for the Nativity.



**ALLELUIA** continues to be sung in the Gospel Acclamation and in other songs. This is the clearest indication that Advent is a season of expectation, not penance.

