



Advent Wreath

Tradition

The Catholic Advent wreath is a cherished tradition observed during the weeks leading up to Christmas. The Advent wreath serves as a spiritual compass for our journey in preparation toward the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. The Candles represent Jesus' coming as the light in the darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings us a little more light in the darkness. The four candles symbolize: hope, peace, joy and love and a white candle is sometimes lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us.

The wreath is a circle of evergreen to symbolize the passing of time and eternal life. The shape of the wreath, with no beginning and no end, reflects the complete and endless love that Jesus has for us. During the Advent Season, we eagerly anticipate the coming of Jesus and the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven.

Three candles are purple, and lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle is rose/ pink, and lit on the third Sunday of Advent. The traditional color of Advent, purple represents a time of prayer, penance, sacrifice (like giving something up for Lent), and spiritual reflection, in preparation for the Coming of the Christ Child. Purple is also the color of royalty and Christ's sovereignty.

The candles are lit on sequential Sundays through Advent:

- **First candle which is Purple:** Represents HOPE and is called the Prophecy Candle. It reminds us of the unwavering hope we hold within us as we await the arrival of our savior.
- **Second candle which is Purple:** Represents PEACE and is called the Bethlehem Candle commemorating Mary and Joseph's journey to

Bethlehem. It calls us to seek inner peace and also to spread peace to those around us.

- **Third candle which is Rose/Pink:** Represents JOY and is called the Shepherd's Candle. Lit on Gaudete (Latin word for Rejoice) Sunday, it serves as a reminder to rejoice that the coming of Christ is near.
- **Fourth candle which is Purple:** Represents LOVE and is called the Angel's Candle. It symbolizes the boundless love of God, which we are called to share with others.
- **Fifth candle which is White:** Is called the Christ Candle, On certain Advent wreaths, particularly those commonly seen in churches, a central white candle known as the Christ candle is sometimes lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, symbolizing the light and life of Christ.

There is beauty in reflecting upon how Jesus delivers these virtues: hope, peace, joy and love, to the world and to our lives.

Prayer Services for Sundays in Advent

The candles will be lit every night through the week as well

The First Week of Advent

Candle Name: The Prophecy Candle

The First Week of Advent Represents: Hope

Candle Color: Purple

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.

First Week Prayer

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen

Or All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good, that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming, and call us to His side in the Kingdom of Heaven, where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen

The Second Week of Advent

Candle Name: the Bethlehem Candle

The Second Week of Advent Represents: Peace and Preparation

Candle Color: Purple

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Second Week Prayer

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen

Or God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

The Third Week of Advent

Candle Name: The Shepherd's Candle

The Third Week of Advent Represents: Joy

Candle Color: Rose/ Pink

This third candle is Rose/ pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

Third Week Prayer

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen

Or Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Four Week of Advent

Candle Name: The Angel's Candle

The Fourth Week of Advent Represents: Love

Candle Color: Purple

During this final week of Advent, we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

Fourth Week Prayer

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen

or

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth, when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen





Christmas Eve or Day

Candle Name: The Christ Candle

Christmas: We celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord and Saviour

Candle Color: White

The birth of Jesus Christ is a central part of the Catholic Church's Christmas celebrations. Some reflect on the humility of Jesus' birth, and how it reveals the dignity of every person.

Focus on the joy of salvation: The joy experienced in the love of Christ is eternal, and is not simply happiness in a moment or a thing.

Focus on the presence of God: God is present in the world, and can be found in acts of selfless charity.

Focus on the importance of family: Family celebrations are a crucial part of Christmas, and can strengthen bonds and create lasting memories.

Focus on the importance of charity: Charitable activities, such as donating food or toys, reflect the spirit of generosity and compassion that Jesus taught.

Focus on the importance of hope: The hope in the faces of people around you can be seen in the faces of your family, friends, and communities.

Focus on the possibility of holiness:

Even in the midst of hurts and misunderstandings

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16