

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is comprised of four candles, one lit each Sunday of the Season of Advent. The three purple candles bring to mind the royalty of the coming Messiah. The rose candle, lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday) means "rejoice" and represents the joy we feel as Christmas nears. A fifth white candle, often placed in the center of the wreath, can be lit during the octave of Christmas. The evergreen boughs that make up the wreath represent the new life we have in Christ.

Traditions:

- Set up your Advent Wreath in a central location, like the dinner table. Light the candles while gathered for family meals.
- Read Scripture selection from the Mass readings and sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel as you light the candles.
- Share family prayer intentions and thanksgivings.
- Use the prayers to the right to remember the meaning of each candle.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" ~ Isaiah 9:1

First Week of Advent: Hope

- "Take heed, watch, and pray. For you do not know when the time will come." ~Mark 13:33
- How did you watch for Jesus today?
- *Dear Lord, help us to watch for You in all the little parts of our days. Fill us with hope as we think of the plans You have for us. Amen.*

Second Week of Advent: Peace

- "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight" ~Mark 1:3
- How can our family prepare a place for Jesus?
- *Jesus, help make our home a place of peace this Advent as we prepare for Your coming. Amen.*

Third Week of Advent: Joy

- "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light" ~John 1:6,8
- How can we be a light to people around us?
- *Father, You sent Your Son to bring light to the world. Help our family to be a light of joy too! Amen.*

Fourth Week of Advent: Love

- "You will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus." ~Luke 1:31
- How can we make our lives a gift to Jesus?
- *Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with love so that we can share the gift of Jesus with everyone we meet, especially during the Christmas Season. Amen.*

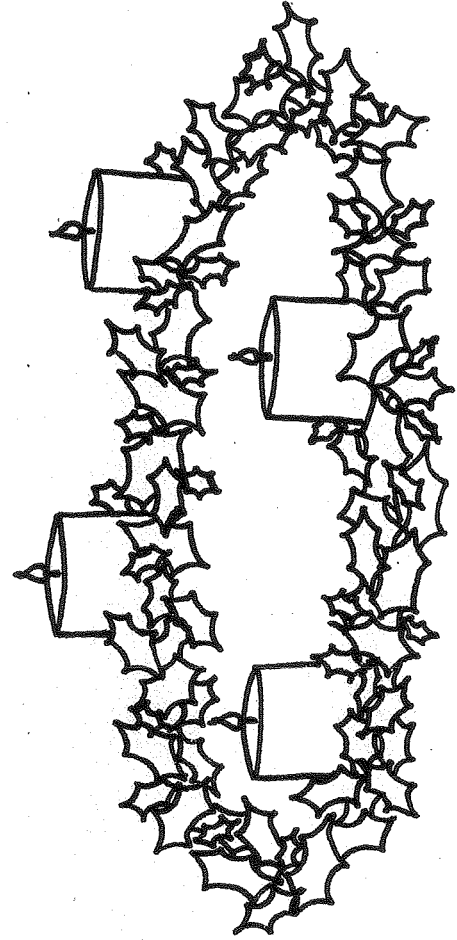
Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

the
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Hope Peace Joy Love

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming." CCC 524