

Advent Wreath

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The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" (purple) reminding us that Jesus is coming. The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" (purple) reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" (pink) reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus. The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" (purple) reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." Some Advent wreaths also include a fifth "Christ" candle (white), symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

Advent Wreath Blessing

The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (1-2 and 5-6)
or Isaiah 63 (16-17 & 19)
or Isaiah 64 (2-7) is read:

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

**Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring
us salvation.**

**May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with
a verse from "O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel":

**O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to
thee, O Israel.**









