

ADVENT INFORMATION

Advent marks the start of the Christmas season. It begins on the Sunday nearest November 30, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, and lasts four Sundays. The date it begins changes from year to year.

As a result, so does the length of each Advent season.

(This year the first Sunday in Advent is November 27, 2005)

The word advent, from Latin, means "the coming." It is a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation. The home or family Advent devotion includes the ceremonial lighting of candles in the Advent wreath.

An Advent wreath is made from greens to symbolize continuous life and contains four candles— **three purple and one rose. Often a fifth candle (white) is added to the center of the wreath for lighting on Christmas Eve**, in celebration of the birth of Jesus. Scroll down this page to see suggested instructions for making an advent wreath at home.

The family or home advent devotion time can be flexible to your family's personal taste. Adding bible verses, carols, discussions questions or whatever your family chooses.

If your children are older, pick a leader for every week.

The leader can then select the format they want the lighting ceremony

to take. Often the lighting of the candle/s is before dinner or right after sunset.

We've provided some suggested bible verses to get you started but they are not intended to imply a set form.

The candle lighting is progressive from week to week, preparing the way for the coming of Jesus.

First Sunday of advent: Hope

Light one purple candle to symbolize Hope

Prayer

Read Isaiah 60:2-3

Extinguish the flame

Second Sunday: Peace

Light two purple candles - Hope and Peace

Prayer

Read Mark 1:4

Extinguish the flames

Third Sunday: Joy

Light two purple candles (Hope and Peace) and one rose to symbolize Joy

Prayer

Read Isaiah 35:10

Extinguish the flames

Fourth Sunday: Love

light all four candles - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Prayer

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

Extinguish the flames

Christmas Eve

After Sunset...

**Light all four candles and add the fifth white candle
(the light of Christ)**

Prayer

Read Luke 1:68-79 and Luke 2:1-20

Keep the candles lit a bit longer, or safely
throughout the evening.