

Advent Family Devotions

We encourage all families in our parish to observe Advent at home, beginning next Sunday, December 3rd. In most Christian homes the Advent wreath is placed on a table. The wreath is a simple one of cedar, pine, fir or any other evergreen. Many families enjoy the satisfaction of making their own wreath. It can be made on a frame of wood or metal. At four equidistant points around the circumference of the circle, candleholders are placed and candles inserted - 4 purple (around the circumference) and 1 white (in the centre).

The first candle should be lighted during family devotions on the First Sunday in Advent. The same candle is relighted each evening (before supper) during the week. An additional candle is lighted during the second week, a third the third week, and a final purple candle the fourth week. On Christmas Eve the white Christ Candle is lighted also.

The candle lighting should take place in connection with a Bible reading, one of prophecy from the Old Testament.

The following family liturgy can be used to begin family devotions on the First Sunday in Advent when the entire family gathers for the blessing of the wreath:

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
All: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour out your blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ Jesus, your Son and our Lord, in whose Name we pray.
All: Amen.

Scripture lessons and prayer for the first week follow. Then the first candle is lighted.

First Week

Scripture Lessons for the Day - (Sunday) Isaiah 2:10-end

Monday: Isaiah 3:1-15, Mark 1:1-20
Tuesday: Isaiah 6, Mark 1:21-end
Wednesday: Isaiah 9:8-10:4, Mark 2:1-22
Thursday: Isaiah 10:24-end, Mark 2:23-3:12
Friday: Isaiah 14:2-27, Mark 3:13-end
Saturday: Isaiah 18, Mark 4:1-20

Leader: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
All: Amen.

One candle is lighted and left burning during the evening meal.

Second Week

Scripture Lessons for the Day - Isaiah 5:18-end, Luke 1:1-25

Monday: Isaiah 19:18-end, Mark 4:21-end
Tuesday: Isaiah 22:1-14, Mark 5:1-20
Wednesday: Isaiah 28:1-8, Mark 5:21-end
Thursday: Isaiah 29:15-end, Mark 6:1-13
Friday: Isaiah 31, Mark 6:14-29
Saturday: Isaiah 40:12-end, Mark 6:30-end

Leader: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Two candles are lighted and allowed to burn as before.

Third Week

Scripture Lessons for the Day - Isaiah 32:1-18, Matthew 3

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-17, Mark 7:1-23
Tuesday: Isaiah 43:14-44:5, Mark 7:24-8:10
Wednesday: Isaiah 44:24-45:13, Mark 8:11-9:1
Thursday: Isaiah 46, Mark 9:2-32
Friday: Isaiah 48, Mark 9:33-end
Saturday: Isaiah 49:14-end, Mark 10:1-31

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers and come to us, bringing light into the darkness of our hearts; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Three candles are lighted during this week.

Fourth Week

Scripture Lessons for the Day - Isaiah 40:1-11, Luke 1:26-45

Monday: Isaiah 51:1-16, Mark 10:32-end
Tuesday: Isaiah 52:13- 53-end, Mark 11:1-26
Wednesday: Isaiah 56:1-8, Mark 11:27-12:12
Thursday: Isaiah 59, Mark 12:13-34
Friday: Isaiah 60:8-end, Mark 12:35-13:13
Saturday: Isaiah 62, Mark 13:14-end

Leader: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your holy birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen,

All four candles are lighted and allowed to burn as before.

Christmas Eve

Scripture Lessons to be read - Zechariah 2:10-end, Hebrews 2:10-18

Leader: Almighty God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

All candles are lighted including the Christ candle.

Christmas Day

Scripture Lessons to be read - Isaiah 9:2-7, Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

All: Amen.

All candles are lighted throughout the days of Christmas including the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus.