



## Advent

Each year during Advent, the Church prepares for Christ's coming. The Advent season also marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Through Scripture, music, and ritual actions, the worshiping assembly renews the ancient expectations and promises of the Messiah. The color purple, which symbolizes that the hearts of the gathered community are in preparation, adorns the sanctuary and is the color of the vestments worn by the priest. By sharing in Advent celebrations, the faithful renew their sense of desire to see and know Christ when he comes again.

The Advent season is a good time for reflection. During this period of preparation, families are called not only to remember Christ's first coming, but are called to mindfully prepare for his second coming at the end of time.

### Family Celebration

Use the following prayer to bless your Advent wreath.

#### Blessing of the Advent Wreath

**Leader:** Celebrating the endless circle of God's love, we join together around this Advent wreath in his name.

**All:** Amen.

(Extend hands over the wreath in a gesture of blessing.)

**Leader:** As our family's Advent wreath stays evergreen and alive, and the candles mark the weeks of anticipation ahead, nurture in us joyful hope. We ask this in your name.

**All:** Amen.

### Family Activity

Create an Advent wreath.

1. Begin by gathering evergreen branches from your yard or from a Christmas tree lot.
2. Using white or purple ribbons attach the branches to a styrofoam ring.
3. Place the candles evenly in the styrofoam ring between the branches.
4. After the wreath is completed, bless the wreath using the Family Prayer.
5. Light the first purple candle, and sing "O'Come, O'Come Emmanuel." Do this for each week during Advent, lighting the pink candle during the third week as a symbol of joy and hope.