Advent



Advent is a season of wonder, openness, and new beginnings.



What is Advent?

Sunday, November 30, 2025 - Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to" is the season encompassing the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36.) Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent ,Gaudete Sunday, when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar, link below, can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

See: **https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/advent**

Advent Wreath Prayers

Start with the Advent Wreath Blessing

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

The First Week of Advent: November 30, 2025

light the first purple candle

Scripture Reflection: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Isaiah 9:2

**pause for reflection*

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.*

The Second Week of Advent: December 7, 2025

light the first and second purple candles

Scripture Reflection: "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:4-7

**pause for reflection*

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.*

The Third Week of Advent: December 14, 2025

light the first and second purple candles and the pink candle

Scripture Reflection: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:20

**pause for reflection*

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.*

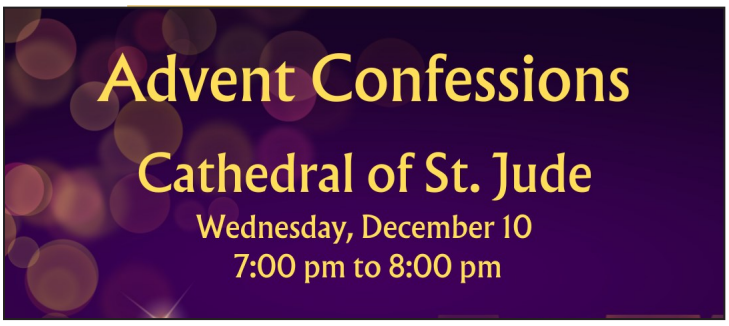
The Fourth Week of Advent: December 21, 2025

light all four candles

Scripture Reflection: "And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

**pause for reflection*

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.*



Blessings for the Home

Christmas Tree

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.



The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy,
now and forever.
R/. Amen.

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

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.



Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
R/. Amen.

Christmas Novena ~Prayed December 16 – 24

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

O Lord, Word of God, You, whose glory is complete, came to us in perfect humility as a child in the womb. Your love for us and Your humility is unsurpassed and brings us to our knees in prayer and worship.

Your incarnation forever changed the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

O Lord, infant Jesus, fill us with Joy! The birth of any child is a cause for joy and so much more is the birth of You, our Savior. We pray in union with Mary, Your mother, for a greater joy this Christmas.

We also pray for these intentions… *State your intentions here*

May Your Holy Will be done in my life and with these intentions.

We pray that the work of salvation that Your first coming began will reach fulfillment in each of us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.



Catholic Recipe: Cinnamon Stars

The wonderful smell of spices fill the house when baking these cookies. Cut in the shape of stars, or your favorite cookie cutter. Allow for overnight chilling before cutting the cookies.

DIRECTIONS

Sift together flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and salt. Cream butter or margarine well; gradually add sugar, beating until well blended. Stir in milk. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in nuts. Add sifted dry ingredients, a little at a time; mix well. Cover dough and chill several hours or until firm enough to roll out. On a floured board, roll out dough, a little at a time, about 1/8 inch thick. Cut with a floured star cutter. Place on sheets. Bake at 350° for 12 minutes or until pale brown. Remove from sheets; cool on racks. Decorate with icing. Makes about 7 dozen cookies.

Recipe Source: *Cook's Blessings, The* by Demetria Taylor, Random House, New York, 1965 ~ More recipes can be found at **www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/recipes**

Ingredients

- 4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 Tablespoons milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts
- green, red, and white icing

Upcoming Events

at The Cathedral of St. Jude and St. Joseph Catholic Church



Blessing of Advent Wreaths:
November 29/November 30 Parishioners are invited to bring their home Advent Wreaths to Mass to be blessed.



Blessing of Hay: You will be invited to take some blessed hay home with you from Mass. Add it to your nativity scene, or you can follow the old custom and tuck it under the tablecloth. By putting straw on the table, we make our homes like Bethlehem, a word that means "the house of bread." Whenever we welcome guests to eat with us in love, our home becomes a place where God comes to live. Some families have their children put one piece of straw in the manger for the Baby Jesus every time they do a good deed. Jesus will have a comfortable bed due to the children's good deeds.



***Bambinelli* Sunday:** All parishioners will be invited to bring their figures of the Christ Child, from their home Nativity scenes, to be blessed.

***Oplatki*:** The breaking and sharing of the Oplatki, also known as the Christmas Wafer, is done typically right before the Christmas meal is served to your loved ones gathered at Christmas dinner. Generally, the eldest member of the family begins the ritual by breaking off a piece of the Oplatki and then passing the remaining wafer to another person at the table with a blessing. The purpose of this act is to express the unconditional love we have for one another and thereby reinforcing the unity of the family.



Epiphany Home Blessing Kits distributed:

Since the Middle Ages, there has been a tradition that on (or near) the feast of the Epiphany, we pray for God's blessing on our homes, marking the door post with chalk (an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made). We mark the main door of our home with the initials of the Magi and the numerals of the New Year, connected with crosses: "20 + C + M + B + 26". The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and also stand for the Latin motto: Christus mansionem benedicat "May Christ bless this house."





2025 Children's Advent

May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for His coming.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 30 First Sunday of Advent I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.	1 I will do my work well today and with joy for God.	2 *St. Bibiana* I will hold the door for someone today.	3 *St. Francis Xavier* I will obey my parents, my teachers, and others in charge of me.	4 I will do some work for my parents to help them rest after a day of work. I will work hard today and do my best.	5 I will be a peacemaker today in school and at home.	6 *St. Nicholas* I will donate like-new toys and books I've out grown to needy families.
7 Second Sunday of Advent I will secretly do a kind act for someone.	8 *Immaculate Conception of Mary* I will honor Mary in a very special way today by being cheerful.	9 I will paint a picture for someone special.	10 *Our Lady of Loreto* I will try to be more thoughtful of others.	11 I will find a quiet place and sit for a few minutes, just letting God love me.	12 *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* I will ask Mary to help me make room for Jesus in my heart.	13 *St. Lucy* I will try to show special love for someone who seems unhappy or lonely.
14 Third Sunday of Advent I will try to be patient today.	15 I will thank God for all He gives to me.	16 *St. Adelaide* I will work hard today and do my best.	17 *St. Daniel* I will keep calm and not lose my temper when I am pushed or treated rudely.	18 I will make a special effort to be kind to those I find it hard to like.	19 I will be helpful at home these last days before Jesus' birthday	20 I will speak kindly to all I meet today.
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent I will be kind in a special way to someone I do not like much.	22 *St. Frances Xavier Cabrini* I will not complain today, even if I must do things I do not want to do.	23 *St. John of Kanty* I will make a Christmas gratitude jar.	24 I welcome Jesus with great love and offer Him all the good acts I	25 **Merry Christmas!**		