



# The Advent Season

## Advent

### What is Advent?

Advent is a time to join together as a family in a period of preparation and celebration of the birth of Jesus. Every Sunday of the Advent season you can gather to pray, read scripture, and light a candle. My family also likes to have the nativity set on display and each Sunday we add a different piece according to the celebration that week. In addition to the Sunday guide below, my family prays the rosary after we light the candle(s).

### What You Need

**Wreath:** Advent wreaths can be as simple or elaborate as you like. All you need is:

- Advent Wreath Frame. [CatholicSupply.com](http://CatholicSupply.com) has some great options as well as [HobbyLobby.com](http://HobbyLobby.com).
- A wreath to go over the Advent Wreath Frame. This can be either a premade wreath or you can make one yourself. Remember to get your wreath and candles blessed.

**Candles:** You will need five (5) candles total. I been able to find these at Walmart, Dollar Tree, and Hobby Lobby.

- Three (3) purple (or blue) taper candles.
- One (1) pink taper candle.
- One (1) white candle.

## The First Sunday

### Read the Following

Lighting a candle is a simple yet profound act. It is a testimony to the power of light over darkness. Even the light of one candle can reveal our faces as we stand near the candle. As we light the candle, we begin our journey to Christmas, a day of joy and celebration.

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The first candle on the Advent wreath is called the Prophecy candle, it opens the period that anticipates Christmas and remembers those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

## Action and Recite

*[Light one of the Purple or Blue candles.]*

All:

One candle, burning bright,  
chasing away the darkness from light.

One candle, glowing light,  
the blessing of God, giving new sight.



Rosary

This is a good time to pray the Rosary. It will bring your family together and help your child memorize their prayers.

## Scripture Reading

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1: 26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called <sup>[b]</sup> the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

## Prayer

Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent we begin a spiritual pilgrimage as we joyously anticipate Christmas day, a reminder of the birth of our Savior. As we light this candle, we know

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that we are in your presence. Give us your peace that through us, all may know the peace that Christ brings. In his name we pray. Amen.

## Song

Ave Maria

## Second Sunday

### Read the Following

Waiting is hard in a fast-paced society. We want the stoplight to change quickly, the grocery line to move fast, and Christmas morning to arrive soon. We forget that before good things happen, preparations must be made.

### Action and Recite

Leader:

Last week we lit the Prophecy candle and remembered those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

*[Light the Purple or Blue candle that was lit last week.]*

The second candle on the Advent Wreath is called the Bethlehem candle. It is a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

*[Light another Purple or Blue candle]*

All:

One candle, burning bright,  
chasing away the darkness from light.

One candle, glowing light,  
the blessing of God, giving new sight.



Rosary

This is a good time to pray the Rosary. It will bring your family together and help your child memorize their prayers.

### Scripture Reading

#### Luke 2:2-7: Christ is Born of Mary

<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

<sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out

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of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, <sup>6</sup> who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

## Prayer

Dear God, in this very busy season with so many things to do, help us to hear anew your voice calling us to prepare the way for our Lord and Savior Jesus. Call us to repentance. Live in us by your Spirit that our lives will produce good fruit to the praise and honor of your name. Amen.

## Song

Oh Holy Night

## Third Sunday

### Read the Following

Jesus is coming, shout for joy! Joy is a word we see and hear everywhere at Christmas. Joy to the world is the message of the season. Joy is the theme of this day.

### Action and Recite

Leader:

Two weeks ago we lit the Prophecy candle and remembered those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

*[Light the Purple or Blue candle that was lit on the 1<sup>st</sup> week]*

Last week we lit the Bethlehem candle, a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

*[Light the Purple or Blue candle that was lit last week]*

The third candle on the Advent wreath is called the **Shepherds'** candle. It remembers the first in a long line of people who joyfully shared the good news of the Savior's birth. The candle is a different color, reminding us that our period of waiting is half over.

*[Light the pink candle]*

ALL:

Three candles, burning bright,

Chasing away the darkness from light.

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Three candles, glowing bright,  
The blessing of God, giving new sight.



Rosary

This is a good time to pray the Rosary. It will bring your family together and help your child memorize their prayers.

## Scripture Reading

### Luke 2: 8-20 The Shepherds and the Angeles

<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, <sup>[b]</sup> an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" <sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely <sup>[d]</sup> known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

## Prayer

Dear God, with joy we acknowledge your care and love for us. With joy we acknowledge that our help is in you, the Maker of heaven and earth, our Maker and our re-Maker through the life and death of the One born in Bethlehem. Through faith in him, grant us solid joy that lasts long beyond this Christmas season and that equips us to face the adversities of life. Amen.

## Song

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

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## Fourth Sunday

### Read the Following

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of endless love and faithfulness. Out of darkness light shines, pointing us in hope to the One who came to overcome the darkness of this world and to be our light in the world to come.

### Action and Recite

Leader:

Three weeks ago we lit the Prophecy candle and remembered those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

*[Light the Purple or Blue candle that was lit three weeks ago.]*

Two weeks ago we lit the Bethlehem candle, a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

*[Light the Purple or Blue candle that was lit two weeks ago.]*

Last week we lit the Shepherds' candle, remembering the first in a long line of people who joyfully shared the good news of the Savior's birth.

*[Light the pink candle that was lit last week.]*

The fourth candle on the Advent wreath is called the **Angels'** candle. It reminds us of the hope fulfilled in the first coming of our Savior and of our continuing hope as we anticipate his coming again.

*[Light the last Purple or Blue candle]*

ALL:

Four candles, burning bright,  
Chasing away the darkness with light.  
Four candles, glowing bright,  
The blessing of God, giving new sight.



Rosary

This is a good time to pray the Rosary. It will bring your family together and help your child memorize their prayers.

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## Scripture Reading

### Matthew 1: 18-25 Angels Visit Joseph

<sup>18</sup>The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way: His mother Mary had been promised to Joseph in marriage. But before they were married, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph was an honorable man and did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to break the marriage agreement with her secretly.

<sup>20</sup>Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said to him, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him to do. He took Mary to be his wife. <sup>25</sup>He did not have marital relations with her before she gave birth to a son. Joseph named the child Jesus.

## Prayer

Dear God, in the fullness of time you sent the One promised through the prophets who looked forward in hope. You have given us a living hope by raising him from the dead. Enliven our hope as we live in the expectation of your coming and your coming again. Amen.

## Song

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

## Christmas

### Action and Recite

Leader:

Four Sundays ago we lit the Prophecy candle and remembered those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

*[Light the Purple or Blue candle that was lit on the first week]*

Three Sundays ago we lit the Bethlehem candle, a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

*[Light the Purple or Blue candle that was lit on the second week]*

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Two Sundays ago we lit the Shepherds' candle, remembering the first in a long line of people who joyfully shared the good news of the Savior's birth.

*[Light the pink candle]*

Last Sunday we lit the Angels' candle, and were reminded of the hope fulfilled in the first coming of our Savior and of our continuing hope as we anticipate his coming again.

*[Light the last Purple or Blue candle]*

Tonight, the Advent season ends. We wait no longer. That great event for which we waited has happened. God's promise of a Redeemer is fulfilled. Christ Jesus is born. We light the **Christ** candle with praise to our God who brings joy to the world.

*[Light the white Christ candle]*



Rosary

This is a good time to pray the Rosary. It will bring your family together and help your child memorize their prayers.

## Scripture Reading

### **Matthew 2:1-12 The Wise Men Visit**

<sup>2</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



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## Prayer

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we rejoice that you, so wonderful, so mighty, so everlasting, and so princely, entered time in the weakness of human flesh in a lowly stable in Bethlehem as the son of a peasant couple. O Child of Bethlehem, your birth gives us great joy. Make our joy complete so that we, like you, spend our lives looking to the interests of others. By the power of your Spirit, instill in us your attitude of humble service. In your name we pray. Amen.

## Song

We Three Kings