

Lighting of the Advent Wreath | Year B

Using the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a circle of greenery with 4 or 5 candles.

The candles are lit over the four weeks of Advent leading to Christmas and consist of three purple (violet) and one rose for the third Sunday. A white candle can be added in the centre to represent Christ and is lit for Christmas day.

The wreath of fresh evergreen comes from northern Europe and was in use long before Christianity. It is believed that it was not until the 16th century that Christians used the symbol. The circle viewed as the unending love of God and the fresh green leaves as new life.

Purple, violet or blue can be used as the main colour. Material can be added in the form of a drape in or behind the wreath. The candles can be separate from the wreath. Fresh or artificial green can be used to create the wreath.

The wreath should not be placed as to overwhelm the sanctuary. Care must be taken to not block the view of the altar from the community or to make the wreath more important than the liturgy of the Mass. As the candles are alight be careful that they are not in a situation to start a fire.

A family or young person can light the candle with the assistance of the priest, deacon or acolyte.

First Week of Advent

Presider: Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of the one reality of how God's plan has been revealed in Christ. This is seen in every Mass and Sacrament we celebrate. We are also reminded that Christ will be revealed in his glory, when he comes again at a time we do not know.

The Presider blesses the wreath with Holy Water using these or similar words:

Presider: May this sprinkling of the waters of baptism remind us of our first sharing in grace, and help us to be prepare for the Lord's coming among us today and for his second coming at the end of time.

The Presider or an assistant light the first candle.

Priest: As we light the first candle of Advent we reflect on waiting for the coming of Jesus.
Lord, may we be awake to all that you are to us taking time to listen and answer you.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come. or Lord hear and answer us.**

The Presider then continues the Mass with the Collect from the Roman Missal.

Second Week of Advent

The Presider or an assistant light the Second candle.

Priest: As we light the second candle of Advent we reflect on how we are preparing for the coming of the Christ.
Lord, as we prepare for your coming, may we live out the call to be as you are to others.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. or Lord hear and answer us.

The Presider then continues the Mass with the Collect from the Roman Missal.

Third Week of Advent

The Presider or an assistant light the Third candle.

Priest: As we light the rose candle of Advent we look forward With joy to the birth of Christ.
Lord, may we always be happy to be known as a follower of yours, delighting in your generous love.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. or Lord hear and answer us.

The Presider then continues the Mass with the Collect from the Roman Missal.

Fourth Week of Advent

The Presider or an assistant light the Fourth candle.

Priest: As we light the last candle of Advent we are grateful for the generosity of Mary who said “yes” to becoming the Mother of God.
Lord, may we also be generous with all you have given to us, sharing our Christmas joy with those in most need.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. or Lord hear and answer us.

The Presider then continues the Mass with the Collect from the Roman Missal.