

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, THE FAMILY GATHERS FOR THE BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH BY THE FATHER OF THE FAMILY.

Father: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Father: Let us pray: O God, by Whose Word all things are sanctified, pour for Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. ALL: Amen.

(He sprinkles the wreath with Holy Water. Then the youngest child lights the first candle, and the prayer for the first week is said.)

Father: Let us pray: Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Through Christ our Lord. ALL: Amen.

(During the first week one candle is left burning during the evening meal. Two candles are lighted on the second Sunday and allowed to burn as before.)

Father: Let us pray: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure souls. Through Christ our Lord. ALL: Amen.

(Three candles, including the rose candle, are lighted on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday, and during that week. The following prayer is said:)

Father: Let us pray: We humbly beg Thee, O Lord, to listen to our prayers; and by the grace of Thy coming bring light into our darkened minds. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ALL: Amen.

(All four candles are lighted on the fourth Sunday, and burn as said before)

Father: Let us pray: Stir up Thy might, we pray Thee, O Lord, and come; rescue us through Thy great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins, may be hastened by the grace of Thy gentle mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ALL: Amen.

SCRIPTURE ADVENT READINGS:

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

- Monday Isaiah: Chap. 2(1-5)
- Tuesday Psalm 146
- Wednesday Isaiah: Chap. 11(1-10)
- Thursday Psalm 85
- Friday Zephaniah Chap. 3(14-20)
- Saturday Isaiah: Chap. 61(1-11)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

- Monday Isaiah: Chap. 7(10-14)
- Tuesday Isaiah: Chap. 35(1-10)
- Wednesday Isaiah: Chap. 64(1-11)
- Thursday Jeremiah: Chap. 33(14-16)
- Friday Psalm 72
- Saturday Psalm 12

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT - - GAUDETE:

- Monday St. Paul to the Philippians: Chap. 4(4-9)
- Tuesday Baruch: Chap. 5(1-9)
- Wednesday Isaiah: Chap. 40(1-12)
- Thursday Psalm 122
- Friday Isaiah Chap. 52(7-10)
- Saturday Isaiah Chap. 62(11-12)

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

- Monday Micah: Chap. 5(1-4)
- Tuesday St. Luke Chap. 1(26-38)
- Wednesday St. Luke Chap. 1(39-45)
- Thursday St. Luke Chap. 1(46-56)
- Friday St. Luke Chap. 1(57-66)
- Christmas Eve: St. Luke Chap. 1(67-79)
- Christmas St. Matthew Chap. 1(1-25)