

FAMILY ADVENT WREATH

Adults and children will learn the meaning of the Advent wreath and decorate one for home use.



Instructions:

- Place your 3 purple and 1 pink candles into the wire frame.
- You can decorate your round cardboard disc for under the candles in any way you would like.
- Another option would be to put the cardboard disc under the wreath and then add fresh or fake greens on top. You could add symbols, berries, ribbon, or anything you would like to add to it.

The Story of the Advent Wreath:

Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions in Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. Legend has it that St. Boniface first gave the wreath its Christian meaning in the 8th century, and we have been using these wreaths as part of our Advent preparation ever since.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. The evergreens signify continuous life. Each of the four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the prayer, penance, preparation, and good works we are called to do during Advent. The color purple signifies the “royalty” of Jesus Christ.

The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is the Sunday of rejoicing. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life and hope. We gradually add more light each Sunday until Christ, our Light, comes at Christmas.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Place the Advent wreath on a table and have your family gather around it. Lower the lights to create an appropriate atmosphere for the blessing. Light a single purple candle for the first week of Advent.

Leader: This week we begin the season of Advent, when the days grow short and darkness closes in. We are preparing to celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

(Pause a few moments and then pray the Sign of the Cross.)

Leader: Lord God, bless this wreath and bless us as well. May this wreath remind us of the hope and joy that Jesus brings to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests know to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:4-7)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Pray the Lord's Prayer and continue with the prayer for the First Week of Advent.)

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT: Purple Candle



Jesus, as we wait for your coming, help us
not to be afraid and to trust in you.
As we light this candle, we remember that
you bring the light of hope into our lives.
May your Word be always in our minds, on
our lips, and in our hearts. Amen.