

# Advent Wreath Blessing



*The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.*

First Week of Advent—  
Light the first purple candle.

Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World, we ask you to light our way this Advent as we prepare and watch for your coming. Grant us the grace to always follow you. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, lead us to God our Father in heaven. Amen.

Second Week of Advent—  
Light two purple candles.

Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh, we ask you to give us the words of everlasting life. As we follow you—the Way, the Truth, and the Life—help us to share the Gospel with others now and forever. Amen.

*O come, o come,  
Emmanuel!*

Third Week of Advent—  
Light two purple and the rose candles.

Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Joy and Salvation, we rejoice in your immanent coming and ask your help to prepare our hearts fully for your arrival. Grant us the grace of beatitude as we continue our vigilant waiting. Amen.

Fourth Week of Advent—  
Light all four candles.

Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Redeemer, we pray for the grace to emulate your Blessed Mother and always say “Yes” to you and your will in our lives. May we bless others by our lives of faith as Mary did through her selflessness. Amen.

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Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.  
(USCCB.org)

*When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.*

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**  
Response (R/.) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

(9:1-2, 5-6)

**The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy  
and great rejoicing.  
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as people make merry when dividing spoils.  
For a child is born to us, as son is given us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor,  
God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.  
His dominion is vast and forever peaceful,  
from David's throne, and over his kingdom,  
which confirms and sustains  
by judgment and justice,  
both now and forever.**

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**  
R/. **Thanks be to God.**

With hands joined, the leader says:

**Lord our God,  
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.  
Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us  
salvation.  
May he come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R/. Amen.**

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

**O come, desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
bid ev'ry sad division cease  
and be thyself our Prince of peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*