

Blessing of the Family Advent Wreath

This may be done as part of grace either before or after the family meal. The Advent wreath is a centuries-old European tradition: a wreath of fresh evergreens encircling four equidistant candles. Place it in the center of the dinner table or on a small table somewhere prominent in the house. Three violet candles represent the penitential aspect of Advent. One rose-colored or pink candle symbolizes the anticipated joy of Christ's birth. One by one, each candle is lit on Sunday evenings during Advent until all four candles are burning in week four.



Lord God,
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,
who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ,
who is Lord, for ever and ever. **Amen.**