

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food.

Prayer with Advent Wreath:



### **On the first Sunday of Advent**

Blessing of the wreath

LEADER: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour your blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may we receive from you abundant graces. EVERYONE: Amen.

First week of Advent

“O Lord, stir up your might, we beg You, and come, that by your protection we may deserve to be rescued from of our sins and saved by Your deliverance. Amen.”

The youngest child then lights one purple candle.

End with Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,<sup>[a]</sup> and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, <sup>33</sup> and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>35</sup> And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived<sup>[c]</sup> a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; <sup>37</sup> for nothing will be impossible for God." <sup>38</sup> Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## On the second week of Advent

LEADER: "O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Your Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve You with pure minds, pure hearts and open souls. EVERYONE: Amen.

The oldest child then lights the purple candle from the first week plus one more purple candle.

End with Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,<sup>[a]</sup> but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,<sup>[b]</sup> yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord<sup>[c]</sup> appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,<sup>[d]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> <sup>[e]</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. <sup>25</sup> He had no relations with her until she bore a son,<sup>[f]</sup> and he named him Jesus.

## On the third week of Advent

LEADER: O Lord, we beg You to hear our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Your visitation EVERYONE: Amen.

Someone then lights the two previously lit purple candles plus the pink candle.

End with the Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-45

**Mary Visits Elizabeth.** <sup>39</sup> During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed

are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord<sup>Ⓜ</sup> should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed are you who believed<sup>Ⓜ</sup> that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

### **On the fourth week of Advent**

LEADER: O Lord, stir up Your power, we pray for Your coming into our hearts; and with Your great might help us, by sending Your grace, mercy and forgiveness

EVERYONE: Amen.

Someone then lights all of the candles of the wreath.

End with Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20

**The Birth of Jesus.** <sup>1</sup> <sup>Ⓜ</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus<sup>Ⓜ</sup> that the whole world should be enrolled. <sup>2</sup> This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup> to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn son.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> <sup>Ⓜ</sup>Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. <sup>9</sup> The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. <sup>10</sup> The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> <sup>Ⓜ</sup>For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> <sup>Ⓜ</sup>“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

**The Visit of the Shepherds.** <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made

known the message that had been told them about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

