



Advent Wreath Prayer – Week 2

During the Advent season, families should spend time together preparing for the approaching celebration of the birth of Christ. An Advent wreath can be a great focal point for family prayers and holiday celebrations. An Advent wreath is a wreath of laurel, spruce or similar foliage with four candles that are lighted successively in the weeks of Advent to symbolize the light that the birth of Christ brought into the world. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple, the color of kings and of penance. A rose-colored candle is used to mark the Third Sunday of Advent as a time to rejoice over the closeness of Christmas and the coming of Christ. Children love the beauty of the simple traditional ceremony. Lighting candles in an Advent Wreath is a simple way to start a tradition of family worship in the home. Those who participate will cherish the experience all their lives.

Each day your family should gather around the Advent wreath, generally before the evening meal. The proper number of candles are then lit and a prayer is said.

SECOND WEEK The following prayer should be repeated each day during the week. After the prayer, the family's youngest child or member lights two of the purple candles (family members can also take turns lighting and blowing out the candles on each night).

Leader: 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 minds. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The candle is allowed to burn during evening meals for the week.