

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOV 29, 2020

Advent???? Already???? Where did the year go????

Yes, this is the first Sunday of Advent in a year where everything has been different, and too often special days and celebrations were edited down or even eliminated. Advent is here, and it means Christmas is only 4 weeks away!

Traditionally, Advent is a time of waiting, as those generations from the time of Creation to Moses and Abraham and beyond “waited in joyful hope” for their savior, having no idea how or when this would happen, but believing that one day, he would come.

This year has not held a lot of “joyful hope” for many of us. Illness and death were ever present in a way it had never been before. Jobs and careers have been lost. Businesses owned by generations have shut their doors. School and activities for all ages have been disrupted and redefined in a way we never could have dreamt.

But no matter what is still unknown in our world, we can always count on God’s love for us. We can, and should, always celebrate the birth of his Son on earth and our eternal salvation.

And this year, again, we will celebrate Advent, a time of waiting, of longing, of hope.

How can we do this? On our parish website we will have a family advent calendar with an easy but meaningful activity for each day that everyone can participate in doing. These were distributed through our Faith Formation program and are on the site for everyone’s use.

Another way could be to set up an Advent Wreath in your home, either purchased or homemade. Check out [CatholicCulture.org](http://CatholicCulture.org) or other sites for more details.

Have some quiet time of prayer and reflection each day, or a few times a week. Light a candle, do some spiritual reading, play some inspirational music. Think of all God has done for you, and of some things you can do to show your love and appreciation of him.

Yes, it is Advent already, again. It can be just four weeks in December, or it can be a month of meaning and focus for you and your family as we approach Christmas. “Joyful hope” is out there...we just have to look for it!