



December **Bonus** Family Faith Activity!

As a special optional bonus activity, we are asking our family to once again bring out or create an Advent Wreath for your home. Advent begins on Sunday November 28th this year.

If your family already has an Advent Wreath ...wonderful...if not there are many ways to make one. You can look on Pinterest or Google how to make an Advent Wreath to find some very creative ways to make one. You can go to your local craft store for the material or just use the paper one included with this activity. The wreath itself is important, however understanding the meaning behind the wreath is just as important! As you put together, color or create your Advent Wreath, our focus this month will include your family learning and understanding what each part of the wreath stands for as we journey toward Christmas. There are prayers included for your family to prayer as you light (or color) the weekly candle.

The Circular Evergreen Wreath: The circle, which has no beginning and no end, symbolizes the eternity of God, immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The evergreen branches signify continuous or everlasting life.

Four Candles: The candles represents that Christ is the Light of the World. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday in Advent with a special meaning associated with each week. There are three purple candles which is the liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice and one pink candle which represents joy.

First Purple Candle: The first purple candle symbolizes hope and is lit on the first Sunday in Advent. It is called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets (especially Isaiah) who foretold the birth of Christ.

Second Purple Candle: The second purple candle, lit on the second Sunday, represents faith and is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminds of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

Third Pink Candle: The third candle is pink because pink or rose is the liturgical color that symbolizes joy and is lit on the third week of Advent. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle” to remind us that just like the shepherds we also experience joy at the birth of Jesus. We are also joyful that we have reached the midpoint of Advent!

Fourth Purple Candle: The final purple candle is lit on the fourth week of Advent to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This candle is called the “Angel’s Candle” and reminds us of the Angels message of “Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men.”

White Candle: (optional) Some Advent wreaths have a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. It is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning The color white is for light and purity because Jesus is our sinless, pure Savior; the Light of the World!

Don't forget to Email a picture of your wreath!
(egarfold@blessedtrinitypgh.net or ceisenbarth@blessedtrinitypgh.net) Every family sending in an Advent Wreath Picture will have their name enter to win this wonderful Melissa & Doug Nativity Set!

Drawing will be held on December 14th .

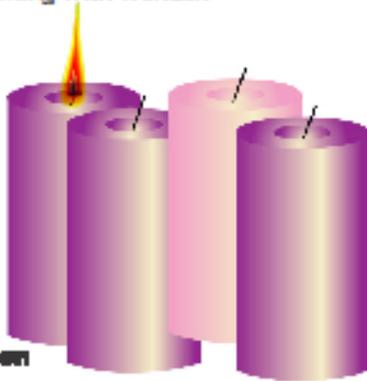


WEEK 1

Light one candle and sit for a moment in silence.

*Christ our Light,
Shine in our lives with hope and promise.
Give us right vision so that we remain attentive
to this holy season.
Remind us to look for you in small acts of
kindness and love.
We await your coming with wonder.*

Amen



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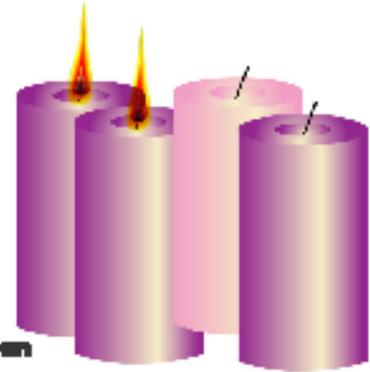
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WEEK 2

Light two candles and sit for a moment in silence.

*Christ our Hope,
Illuminate our hearts with your grace.
Enlarge our vision so that we recognize our
kinship with all the people of the world.
Help us to give to others in ways that meet
their deepest needs.
We await your coming with gratitude.*

Amen.



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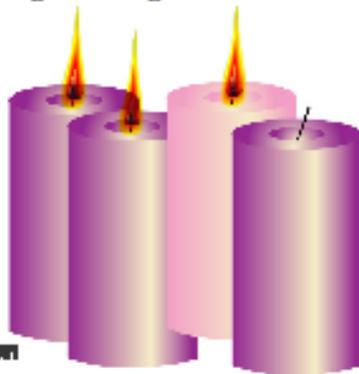
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WEEK 3

Light three candles and sit for a moment in silence.

*Christ our Joy,
Brighten our homes with your presence.
Clarify our vision so that we might see you
in the people we cherish.
Make every holiday activity an opportunity
to spread your light and love.
We await your coming with delight.*

Amen.



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WEEK 4

Light four candles and sit for a moment in silence.

*Christ our Peace,
Glow brightly in each moment.
Enlighten our vision so that we see beyond
the trappings of the holidays.
Relieve us, if just for a moment,
of our worries and stress.
We await your coming with serenity.*

Amen.



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