

Advent: Time of Watching and Waiting

Prayers for children

Nov. 30 we will see the Advent Wreath in our sanctuary inviting us to remember that Jesus is our light. The four candles mark the four Sundays of Advent helping to see that we journey together, more aware of Christ's presence and saving love.

A small advent wreath can be purchased or hand made. 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.

For those who wish to have more information regarding Advent, Advent Wreath or prayers, the following websites may be helpful:

cptryon.org/prayer/child

catholicism.about.com/od/catholicliving/

catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers

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

A Rite for the Beginning of Advent at Home

The first day the wreath is in the home, the leader may say:

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:

The people that walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those who lived in a land as dark as death
a light has dawned.
You have increased their joy
and given them gladness;
They rejoice in your presence
as those who rejoice at harvest,
as warriors exult when dividing spoil. *Is. 9:1-2*

Then all pray:

O God,
rejoicing,
we remember the promise of your Son.
As the light from this candle,
may the blessing of Christ come upon us,
brightening our way
and guiding us by his truth.
May Christ our Savior bring life
into the darkness of our world,
and to us, as we wait for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Then the first candle is lighted.

Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal -- one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. The rose candle is usually lighted on the third Sunday of Advent. As the candles are lighted, a prayer may be said.

Children Pray:

At the beginning of Advent

How dark outside!
but see -- a star's in the sky;
Mary and Joseph are passing by.
So let's light a candle to welcome them
as they go on their way to Bethlehem.

We'll light a candle in church each day,
We'll light one candle each week and pray.

Prayer while lighting the Advent candle:
a family prayer for every day of Advent

O God,
as light comes from this candle,
may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
warming our hearts and
brightening our way.
May Christ our Savior bring life
into the darkness of this world,
and to us, as we wait for his coming.

