



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DECEMBER 6, 2020 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

Reconciliation: By Appointment Only 403-527-6933 ext. 101

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm - Closed on Holidays

Reconciliation is by appointment
only Tuesday to Friday Call the
office to book a time with
Fr. Iqbal or Fr. Rodel

ADORATION IS IN THE
HOPE ROOM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9:30am to 4:00pm



MASSES

MONDAY to FRIDAY at 9:00AM Administration doors,

SATURDAY at 5:00PM Main Front Doors &

SUNDAY at 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM Main Front Doors

MAKE SURE TO COME EARLY TO BE SCREENED & WEAR YOUR MASKS

DOORS WILL BE LOCKED WHEN MASS STARTS

We do have masks available if needed! Please dispose of them in a responsible manner.



Catholic Women's League

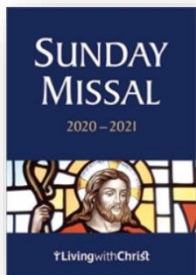
Vi Sheridan - 403-526-9091



Knights of Columbus

Ron Pisoni - 403-526-1848

*The New Missals or in the Foyer for you to
purchase. The price jump is because of
shipping.*



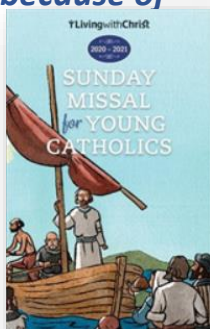
Adult Missal

\$7.00

&

Youth Missal

\$11.00



*Honor System so please have the right amount
of cash to put in the box... Thank You!!!*

Sunday 10:30am Mass Medicine Hat Holy Family Church Live Stream

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut_Q



OPERATING FINANCES

November 26 – December 3, 2020

Operating Budget 2020	\$ 15,000
General Envelope Collection	\$ 15,153
Loose Collections	\$ 37
Future Development	\$ 1303
Sale of Church Supplies	\$ 779
Youth Ministry	\$ 290
TOTAL	\$ 2,562

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 759
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,214
Catholic Education Sunday	\$ 95
CARO	\$ 60
World Missions	\$ 30
Clergy Retirement	\$ 25

2020 TIA GOAL – \$71,214
TO DATE \$ 39,897 = 56% OF THE WAY

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

† **Masses Intentions** †

† **December 5th to 11th** †

Saturday, December 5

8:30am – Calvin Metcalf †

5:00pm – Italo Dal Molin †

Sunday, December 6

8:30 am – Addison Foley †

10:30am – Simon Schmaltz †

6:00pm – Holy Family Parish

Monday, December 7

9:00am – Patrick Volk †

Tuesday, December 8

9:00am – Kodie Ukalchuk

Wednesday, December 9

9:00am – Pamela Kelly †

Thursday, December 10

9:00am – Joan Richard †

Friday, December 11

9:00am – The Foley Family

2nd Sunday of Advent – Year B Sunday, December 6, 2020

1st Reading – Isaiah 40.1-5,9-11

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – 85.8ab+9,10-11,12-13 (R.7)

R. In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound forever.

2nd Reading – 2 Peter 3.8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel – Mark 1.1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

WHAT SORT OF PERSONS?

In this Advent time of looking to the future while living in the now, Saint Peter's question is the right one: "What sort of person ought you to be?" Saint John the Baptist offers a good response and better example. He is not full of himself. He knows his minor place. He points to the One who is both with us now and is also coming.

- 🕯 How will my waiting on the Lord make me more humble?
- 🕯 What full-of-myself behaviors can I change, can I let go?
- 🕯 Works of Mercy take the focus off me for the benefit of another. What will I do?

Friday, November 27 6:00-7:00pm

1st Sunday of Advent
How We Survived the Pandemic

Fr. Rodel Abanto

Thank You Fr. Rodel

Friday, December 4th 6:00-7:00pm

2nd Sunday of Advent

*Why Peace is Important for our
Families, Society and World*

Fr. Roque Pereira

Friday, December 11th 6:00-7:00pm

3rd Sunday of Advent

Joy Changes our Perspective of Life

Deacon Robert Risling

Friday, December 18th 6:00-7:00pm

4th Sunday of Advent

*God's Love is Completed in
the Manger*

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

Monday, December 21st
6:00-7:00pm

Nativity of Jesus

*Word Became Flesh and
Dwelt Among Us*

Fr. Roque Pereira

At Holy
Family
Parish

*Talks will be
live streamed
or you may
attend in
person. With
Covid
Restrictions.*

**ADVENT
MISSION TALKS**



Attending Masses...

MAKE SURE TO COME EARLY TO BE
SCREENED

THE DOORS WILL NOW BE LOCKED WHEN
MASS STARTS TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY
FROM PEOPLE ENTERING THAT HAVE NOT
BEEN SCREENED.



MASKS

It is mandatory to
wear a mask at all
times now in the
church.

We Need Volunteers for Ushering, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, for Front Desk and Disinfection



WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO PURCHASE POINTSETTAS IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES. PLEASE MARK YOUR DONATION SO WE KNOW WHO IT IS FOR



GIFT GIVING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5/6, 2020 –
UNWRAPPED NEW TOYS,
NON-PERISHABLE FOODS & \$\$\$ FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

4:00pm (will be live streamed) 6:30pm, 8:30pm & 10:30pm

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

8:30am & 10:30am (will be live streamed)

Thursday, December 31, New Year's Eve

5:00pm

Friday, January 1, 2021, New Year's Day

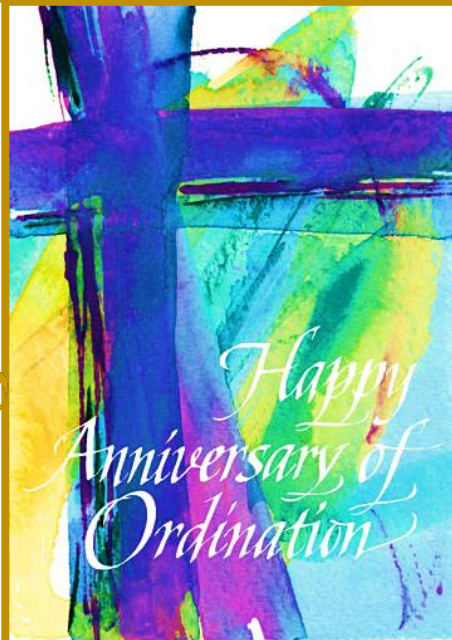
9:30am (will be live streamed)

SIMBANG GABI
MASSES
STARTING
DECEMBER 16
@ 7:30PM

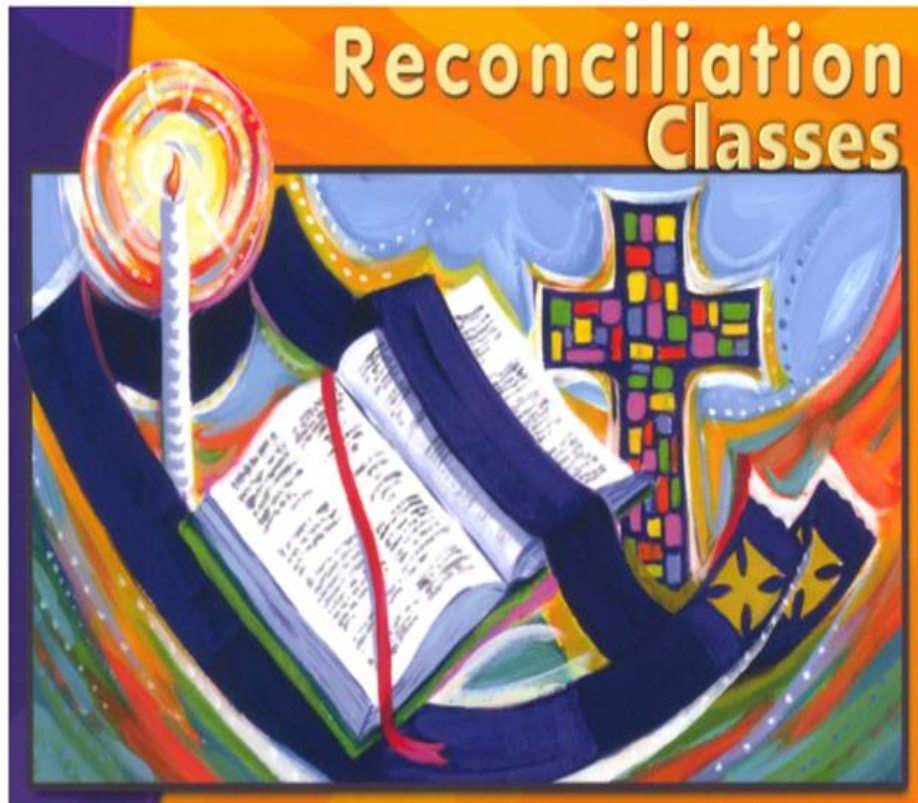
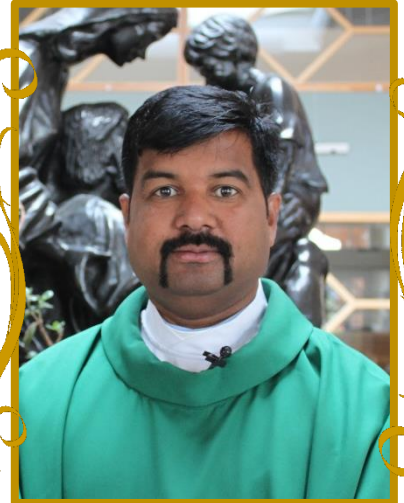
1/3 capacity will be
allowed in for each
Mass. Masks must be
worn.



December 7, 1991
Fr. Rodel Abanto



December 10, 2004
Fr. Iqbal Khurshid



DATES FOR RECEIVING 1ST RECONCILIATION

The sacrament will be celebrated at Holy Family Parish ONLY. The dates are:
Wednesday Dec. 9th from 4:00 – 6:30pm
Thursday Dec. 10th from 4:00-6:30pm
Please note this is DROP – IN only. No sign up is necessary. Come at your convenience between 4:00pm-6:30pm. Again because of restriction please observe the following:

1. MASKS ARE

MANDATORY again if you and your child do not have a mask one will be provided.

2. Please enter through the main entrance where you and your child will be greeted and attendance taken.
3. There will be 5 priests in total to hear confessions. Your child can choose which priest they would like to go to.
4. Family members are also invited to go to confession.
5. While in line please observe social distancing.

If there is a conflict with these dates and your child cannot attend, please call Holy Family Parish office 403-527-6933 to book an appointment with one of the priests.

**STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY IN ALBERTA**

WEAR A MASK

OR FACE COVERING

AT ALL TIMES



Mask use is mandatory in churches and offices in the Diocese of Calgary. Parishioners who are not able to wear a mask for medical reasons can be exempt from this regulation except when receiving Holy Communion.

For more information
call Health Link 811
or visit www.ahs.ca



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary



2nd Sunday of Advent- Year B

WE NEED PEACE

We continue our Advent journey as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. We light the second candle which symbolizes the desire and gift of Peace. We struggle every day for peace but especially when we hear about war, violence, marginalization, and sufferings, however, in this deadly pandemic the desire for the peace has grown extra high. The second candle during Advent keeps reminding us that Jesus is the only one who could illumine our hearts, minds, and souls to experience peace. This week we are given St. John the Baptist to walk with and examine the emptiness of our lives. He is crying and pleading for people to mend their ways and get ready to welcome the one who was, who is and who will be forever. Let me share the following story with you before I meditate on the Word of God today.

Once a daughter was telling her Mother how everything was going wrong. She was failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her, and her best friend was moving away. Meanwhile, her Mother was baking a cake and asked her daughter if she would like a snack. The daughter said, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake." "Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offered. "Yuck" said her daughter. "How about a couple of raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom!" "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe some baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!" To which the mother replied, "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves, but when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!

God works the same way. Many times, we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times as we are experiencing right now in 2020, but God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! Does God not pay attention to our present situation, one may raise this question? However, the Prophet Isaiah gives the answer in this way; "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God..."

Today's Word of God has some very interesting elements to reflect upon as we walk with the Prophet Isaiah and St. John the Baptist. First, God comforts everyone. The Prophet Isaiah is giving this message to the Israelites, those who are in Babylonian exile and are completely devastated with things happening to them and the city of Jerusalem. In the Book of Exodus, we read "God said to Moses, I have heard the cry of my people and have to save them". God does not leave anyone in pain or suffering but wipes the tears from every eye as St. John writes in the Book of Revelation "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." God's only Begotten Son took on human flesh to comfort everyone and even he cried and had compassion for people because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Secondly, a voice is crying. Why is this voice crying? Why only a voice is mentioned? In the First Reading and the Gospel we have the same passage which explores the love and compassion of God who wants people to come back to him as the Prophet Ezekiel says " Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? (33:10-11). In our day to day life whenever we see someone crying, we experience the sadness, brokenness, pain of rejection, and suffering. This crying makes people come up to console or strengthen someone either by simple hugs or words. However in the Readings today God's sadness is immense because people have become unfaithful to him and have started following other gods and ways which are contrary to his commandments but he wants them back because he does not want them to die in their sins as the Psalmist says "harden not your hearts today". St. Paul explains the compassion and love of God even if we deny him "The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself" (2 Timothy 2:11-13). One may ask the question why is he crying in the wilderness when people were living in the cities? It is a valid question; however, we must understand the content and meaning of "wilderness" in the Bible. The Wilderness in the Bible is considered "a place of loneliness and emptiness" and "a state of quietness" which means one must be alone and quiet to "listen to his voice".

Eusebius of Caesarea once wrote "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind. It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The

words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: This is my beloved Son, listen to him. The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. Prepare the way of the Lord: the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power".

Thirdly, an invitation to repent. This is so very important to understand that we must want to have peace not only within ourselves but with God as well, then we must repent of our short comings, sin, and failures. By confessing them we become humble and humility plays a vital role in achieving peace. The Prophet Isaiah says "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low' the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken". In our Christian faith we have the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation which helps us to experience peace and healing in the Lord. St. John the Baptist, while inviting people to confess their sins, is also reminding them to prepare themselves to welcome the one who is more powerful than he. St. Peter in the Second Reading is encouraging people "do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that for the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but waits for all to come to repentance". The season of Advent is a season of seeking God's peace, love, and presence; "Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace".

Lastly, acknowledging the Savior. St. John the Baptist acknowledges the Savior that he is more powerful than him "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals, I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit". He was the first one who even before his birth leaped for joy in his mother's womb. Jesus is the prince of peace who is seated on the eternal throne of King David. The Prophet Isaiah says "See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense is before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd..."

Let me end my reflection with this story which will help us to understand that the shadow of fear will destroy our lives, but the light of faith will show us peace. In the center of the most beautiful garden in the world stood the Tree of Wisdom. From this great tree there grew many branches and leaves. It spread its roots throughout the land. The tree was a place of comfort. Creatures would often come to it and sit in its shade and feel its great truths.

For many years there was harmony. Then one day a shade from one long branch decided that it was not happy. The shade did not wish to give comfort or shelter. "Fools," cried the shade as it spread beneath the tree. "I know more than any of them. I am not made to serve. I should rule over everything."

And so, it was that in pride and hatred the shade tugged and pulled and stretched itself until at last it was able to break its attachment to the great tree. It became the first shadow. Instead of using its power to give shade, it created a cold darkness that blinded all those it touched to the truth. Instead of using its voice to impart great truths to those around it, The Shadow whispered only lies.

The Shadow crept away from the Tree of Wisdom and drifted far into a barren place where it crawled into a hole in the sand. It sank deep into the earth. The Shadow grew and plotted. It would wait beneath the surface until a sad or doubting creature came near. Then the Shadow would rise up and overtake the unsuspecting creature and blind it to the truth and bend it to its will. Over many years and many miles, the shadow created an underground army. Then the army of The Shadow began to strike without warning bringing fear, sadness and hate to innocent creatures. "You cannot fight. I will win," it lied.

Some began to hide and fear the very light of day, for they thought that it was the cause of The Shadow. Others began to hate and fear all the shade of the world, not being able to tell the difference between shade and shadow. It came to pass that creatures began to feel anger toward all things different from themselves. They even became afraid of their own shadows. They stayed in their homes. When they went out, they did not go far.

One day a field mouse went to the Tree of Wisdom, shook its small fist and shouted, "How could you create such a terror upon us? Why is this allowed to continue?" The great tree bowed its huge trunk. It shook and leaves fell like tears. But it did not answer. Then a voice spoke from all around, "I created light and darkness. I made creatures great and small. To one and all I gave the power to build or destroy, bring joy or pain. One among you has chosen darkness and pain. This is not my wish."

Though dazzled by being in the presence of this great power the Mouse was still angry. "Why do you not stop The Shadow?" cried the Mouse. "Because I have given that power to those The Shadow harms. The Shadow has grown through the lack of caring in creatures. Now it is your job to stop it," the great voice answered.

The Voice told the mouse how to win. "You cannot live in fear. Fear only makes The Shadow grow. To be rid of darkness - shine a powerful light of truth. To be rid of cold - bring only warmth wherever you go." The Mouse answered, "I will go out and tell the others what you taught me. I will remember not to hate, because hate makes The Shadow stronger." But the Mouse worried, "I am only one small being and the shadows are now many. How can I ever hope to succeed?"

Suddenly the Mouse was surrounded in a beautiful golden light and warmth, "You will know that as The Shadow began with one small dark being now the light will grow with you, my small messenger."

So it was that one tiny creature set out into the world. With every kind word and every truth, it spoke, and the world around it healed. Others joined the mouse and soon the light grew, and the shadows faded. One by one, The Shadow's followers fell before the mouse and the light. The Shadow sank back into its hole in the earth, vanishing like drops of water in the burning sands of time.

So today as we enter into the second week of Advent to follow the light and journey with the Prophet Isaiah and St. John the Baptist, experience God's love and peace during this pandemic so that our souls are not dragged by the evils of doubt rising from this pandemic. Let's repent of our sins, shortcomings and failures and so prepare the way to welcome Jesus Christ in order that he may become the true reason of the season and peace may prevail in our homes, families, communities and in the World. Come Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, and fill our hearts with your love and peace. Maranatha... Come Lord Jesus. Amen





THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

LOG IN WWW.FORMED.ORG

- Go to Formed.org
- Enter our PARISH CODE: **GPQWK7**
Create a personal account with your personal username/email and password.
- Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!

IMPORTANT: Do not sign up as an individual. Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription and it costs you nothing!

FORMED

WHAT TO WATCH



The Road to Bethlehem

Draw close to Christ this Advent season with daily reflections and enrichment. We've personally selected content to help you prepare for Christmas. We will be sending you handpicked videos, talks, and texts every day throughout Advent to nourish your spiritual life.



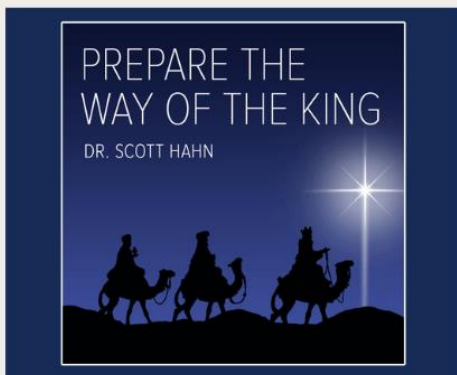
The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas

Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent.



Advent

This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.



Prepare the Way of the King

Your Advent journey will take on new meaning with Dr. Scott Hahn's illuminating presentation on the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.

FORMED *Now!*

PUBLISHED DAILY AT NOON MOUNTAIN TIME

There's always something new to discover on FORMED.

— The FORMED Team



Let's socialize!

LIVESTREAM

Full schedule of Parish
Livestream Masses in the
Diocese of Calgary is
available at:
<https://www.catholiccyyc.ca>.

You can also watch parish

Sunday 10:30am Mass
Medicine Hat Holy
Family Church Live
Stream

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut_Q



Sunday Masses via TELUS Optik TV Ch. 876 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#), [EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#).

*For more Livestreams, visit
CATHOLICYC.CA/LIVESTREAMMASS*

SCHEDULE

▶ **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**
6 pm - Rosary
(WEDNESDAY - ROSARY AND MASS)
BILINGUAL: PORTUGUESE & ENGLISH
OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, CALGARY

▶ **SATURDAY**
5 pm - Anticipated Sunday Mass
ST. PAUL'S PARISH, AIRDRIE

▶ **SUNDAY**
10:30 am - Sunday Mass
ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH, CALGARY

Noon - Sunday Mass
OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, CALGARY
IN PORTUGUESE

5 pm - Sunday Mass
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, CALGARY



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

THANK YOU  **TELUS**
FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!

EMAIL SCAM

Several reports of email scams have been brought to our attention. The emails have been written in a compelling way that the email addresses of the senders were not visually verified and responses were sent. Perhaps this is a reminder that when someone you know asks you to email them back and sounding desperate to perhaps check the sender's email address. The scammers have become more intelligent in acquiring the tone of how we write as clergy.

ONLINE GIVING

Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. You can also use the online giving page on the diocesan website to set up a one-time or recurring donation to your parish via credit-card. Funds donated will be transferred to the selected parish. Give now at <https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/give> [or contact your Parish to set up a direct debit deposit].



Faithfully November's Edition is out

November edition of Faithfully is out! This month Faithfully highlights the hope found in Christ's redemption as we remember the souls of our departed beloved ones. Read an important message from Bishop McGrattan about the two important legislative matters (Bill C-6 & C07) and what the Bishops of Canada urge you to do, so that we can make a difference.

Also highlighted in this edition: stories from two teachers on the importance of Catholic Education, the joy of volunteering, and an insight on caring and serving our children well. Two highlighted events in November: Field of Crosses Memorial Park (Nov. 10 & 11) and the Memorial Liturgy for those mourning the loss of a child through miscarriage or stillbirth.

[Read November edition of Faithfully online](https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/give)

<https://subscribepage.com/faithfully>

LINKS

- [News.CalgaryDiocese.ca](https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/give) | Announcements from the Diocese of Calgary
- [Events.CalgaryDiocese.ca](https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/give) | Diocesan events and registrations
- [Blog.CalgaryDiocese.ca](https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/give) | Catholic Pastoral Centre Blog

- [Careers.CalgaryDiocese.ca](https://careers.calgarydiocese.ca) | Employment opportunities in the Diocese of CalgaryConnect to the Diocesan [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)
- To share with parishioners:
 - [Sacraments & Liturgies](#)
 - [Spiritual Resources](#)
 - [Sacrament Preparation](#)
 - [Online Formation Opportunity](#)



COVID-19 Resources

To share with parishioners:

- [Sacraments & Liturgies](#)
- [Spiritual Resources](#)
- [Sacrament Preparation](#)
- [Online Formation Opportunity](#)
- [Advent & Christmas in the Diocese](#)

Visit the [Diocesan Event Calendar](#)

Is it okay to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

The Alberta & Northwest Territory Bishops have released a letter about the COVID-19 vaccination (dated today).

Many people might be surprised that the question is even being posed. What could be wrong about receiving a vaccine, when we know that vaccinations save lives? The moral issue arises from the fact that vaccine development and testing often make use of cell lines derived from either the tissue of aborted fetuses or destroyed human embryos. Therefore, reception of a vaccine developed and produced from this unethical research presents us with a dilemma that seriously engages our conscience. The short answer from our Bishops on whether it's okay to be vaccinated against COVID-10 is: Yes, it is. Learn more about it from the Bishop's letter re: COVID-19 Vaccine. [Download Letter here](#)

Mission Mexico - Dec 12/13



Mission Mexico began in Alberta in the year 2000 as a Jubilee project by St. Mary's Parish in Cochrane, Alberta, under the leadership of Fr. Fred Monk, who had decided to raise \$100,000 to build an orphanage in Tlapa, Mexico. Soon, they were joined by other parishes in the Diocese of Calgary and Bishop Emeritus Frederick Henry declared December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese. Students and parishioners everywhere were invited to join in the work of Mission Mexico by giving a loonie and efforts continue to this day. Donations to this outreach project have provided greater access

to education and self-sustaining projects to the people in the mountainous state of Guerrero, Mexico.

In celebration of 20 years in partnership and in spite of the challenges we are facing, we are encouraged to engage in a special time of prayer, solidarity, and action for the work and ministry of Mission Mexico, for “love does not go on lockdown and close itself away from the poor and vulnerable at their time of great need.” (Caritas Message for World Day of the Poor)

Please share with your parishioners:

- **Letter from Bishop McGrattan for 2020 Mission Mexico Sunday -**
[Download here](#)
- **Video of Mike & Lindsey.** Here is a video from Mike MacDonald, onsite coordinator for Mission Mexico, and from Lindsey Victoriano, a former student who has benefitted from the scholarships provided through Mission Mexico. Watch video here - <https://youtu.be/JjwnhCrwJO0>
- **Direct link to donate online -**
<https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/donatemissionmexico.html>

DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS RESOURCES

A message from CCCB - Office for Evangelization and Catechesis:

In October 2020, the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis (OEC) hosted a four-part webinar series on the recently released Directory for Catechesis. We are pleased to inform you that the webinar recordings and the supporting PowerPoint Presentations are now available on the CCCB website.

In the coming months, the OEC will continue to provide webinars and/or podcasts to focus on themes from the Directory for Catechesis. Examples of key themes for exploration include accompaniment, “Kerygmatic catechesis”, catechesis in a digital age and missionary discipleship. Additionally, the OEC will examine the recently released Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti and its relationship to the themes of the Directory for Catechesis.

- [Click here to access the *Directory for Catechesis* Webinar Series Resource Kit](#)
- To order the [Directory for Catechesis](#) - [use this form](#)

Please share this online resource with those in your parish or schools who work in evangelization and catechesis.

Thank you & Urgent Appeal from CCEF

Thank you to our donors and supporters during the inaugural Calgary Catholic Education Telethon in support of the CCEF, St Mary's University, FrancoSud School Board and St Joseph's Seminary. The vision behind the telethon came to light thanks to a great team! You can watch the condensed version here at www.theccef.ca/telethon

Your donations are still needed - and here are ways to donate to CCEF: call 403-200-7192, Text "Catholic" to 41010, online at theccef.ca/telethon-donate or E-transfer to donations@theccef.ca



URGENT APPEAL: Father Scollen School has 60 students who were turned to online learning as of November 30 with no access to a laptop or tablet to learn on. Can you help? Please contact info@theccef.ca

Double it!



Do you know that if you donate to Elizabeth House this month (until Dec 24), your donation will be doubled by this one anonymous and generous Calgary couple? Please don't miss this opportunity to double your gift, helping each other, two generations at a time! To donate to our neighbour ministry, Elizabeth House, click here

<https://www.catholicyc.ca/donateelizabethhouse.html>

Events & Resources - Please share

1. **Second Sunday of Advent - Bulletin Shorts, free to use**

[Mass Readings](#) | What Sort of Persons? In this Advent time of looking to the future while living in the now, Saint Peter's question is the right one: "What sort of person ought you to be?" Saint John the Baptist offers a good response and better example. He is not full of himself. He knows his minor place. He points to the One who is both with us now and is also coming.

1. How will my waiting on the Lord make me more humble?
2. What full-of-myself behaviours can I change, can I let go?
3. Works of Mercy take the focus off me for the benefit of another.

Source: Diocese of Springfield

2. **Sisters of Divine Mercy - Adoration Livestream schedule**

Sisters of Divine Mercy invites you to join the Adoration Livestream at the Divine Mercy Centre. When: Mondays to Fridays from 8 am to 5:45 pm, 7 to 9 pm; Saturdays from 8 am to 10:25 am, 11:15 am to 9 pm. Watch at: <https://sistersofdivinemercy.org/livestream-adoration>

3. **Virtual Living Nativity in 2020**

Come one! Come all! To a virtual Living Nativity in 2020! In an effort to keep everyone safe this year, St James Parish in Okotoks will be offering an opportunity to prepare for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus accessible online during Advent. We will be presenting "The Shepherd's Tale" (with permission from *Mother of God Music*), sung and narrated by the Pollock family and Keith Hartman of Black Diamond. You can access this video through the website <https://www.stjamesparishokotoks.ca/living-nativity> starting December 5, 2020.

We also invite you to come to St James Church during Advent and spend a few minutes at the stable erected outside the church. Each week of Advent there will be additions to the Stable in anticipation of Christmas Eve, when the Holy Family (actors) will be in the Stable between Masses. We look forward to welcoming you back to the replica of the Town of Bethlehem in 2021!

4. **Christmas In Our Hearts - Virtual Carolling at St. Albert the Great**

St. Albert the Great Parish invites you to "Christmas In Our Hearts" virtual carolling - a fundraising event for the benefit of St. Albert the Great Church. Featuring performances from parishioners. When: Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 pm. Tune in on [SATG Facebook](#) or [Youtube Live Stream](#)

5. **St. John Choir Schola Nine Lessons & Carols - REMINDER**

St. John Choir Schola welcome everyone to join the traditional prayer of hope and thanksgiving "Nine Lessons & Carols" on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 pm - from Our Lady of Assumption Church, Calgary. Watch via YouTube livestream link:

<https://youtu.be/uQF62SbjhYI>

6. **Advent preparation at home and gift ideas**

This season may have a different feel to it, more solemn, more quiet, but all the more able to be attentive. Attentive to the details of your home, relationships with people and especially to the coming of infant Jesus. If you have yet to decorate your home or begin your Advent preparations, here are a few great local resources from Catholic vendors in the Diocese of Calgary. [Read more](#)

7. **Banff Community Advent Service**

Here is the link to the Banff Community Prayer Service, an Advent offering from Banff area churches. St. Mary's Catholic Parish in Banff also took part at this ecumenical service. Watch this service here: https://youtu.be/79jbJF72_Ws

8. **The Evening of GrACE with Bishop McGrattan, AB Bishops and musician Steve Angrisano**

Congratulations GrACE for hosting the first inaugural faith-inspired Evening of GrACE. The beautiful reflections from our Bishop and music from Steve Agrisano provided an excellent start to Advent. If you missed this evening please take the time to view it with your respective communities. The link is: <https://youtu.be/RYrAvFaKPp8>

9. **Advent Retreat "Unshakeable Joy" with Cardinal Cantalamessa & Chris Stefanick**

Joy isn't found in the places where most people would think to look. Joy doesn't depend on a change in your circumstances, but a change in you. Join Chris Stefanick alongside Cardinal-elect Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the papal household for Saint Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict, and Pope Francis, for a [FREE online 26-day retreat](#)

10. **CNEWA Canada presents *Witnesses of Hope***

In recent years, the Middle East has been covered by clouds of war, violence and destruction - forcing millions to flee their homes. Despite the terrible impact on their very existence, Christians continue to witness to the life-changing power of the Gospel. Founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926 to provide pastoral and humanitarian support to the churches and people of the East, CNEWA presents a virtual TV fundraising event to highlight the role and realities of Christians in the region, celebrate their witness and raise funds for their important work. Tune in for inspiring speakers, music and uplifting stories. When: December 10 at 6 pm MT. Watch on Salt + Light - or [CNEWA Facebook page](#) | [Poster here](#)

11. **Eight ways to honour the Immaculate Conception this December**

The Church taught of the Immaculate Conception for ages, but in 1854, Pius IX infallibly proclaimed it as doctrine, stating that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin." Our Mother Mary remained free of sin for her entire life. Honouring her purity is a strong antidote to the evil we all too-often encounter in this sinful world. Here are 8 ways you can honor the Immaculate Conception this December. [Read more](#)

12. **Organ looking for a new home**

Angela Martin's family, a parishioner in the Diocese of Calgary, is looking to donate a [Kawai KX 2000 organ](#) (with bench) in an excellent condition, to a church, charitable organization or to a new home where it can be enjoyed again. If you are interested, please contact themartin5@outlook.com

FCJ RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTRE

A corporate ministry of the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) since 1980



TO SEE ALL FALL/WINTER OFFERINGS

Visit Our Website

WWW.FCJCENTRE.CA





[Spiritual Centre of Peace, Healing and Prayer](#)

Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre is nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains where we are all welcome in the name of Christ. The Franciscan Friars of Canada, inspired by the vision and example of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, have served here since 1949.

We offer silent retreats and spiritual direction. We also serve those in the 12 Step Program through weekend and evening Serenity retreats. We listen to 5th steps. We host groups and individuals seeking a place of quiet and stillness in an often hectic world. We can accommodate up to 50 people (46 rooms/50 beds). We have one large and one small meeting room, a library and chapel. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions. There are approximately 500 acres to explore.

Our retreats are organized through a group of dedicated volunteer Captains that oversee the registration. Please see our retreats page for more information.

We have strong ties with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary; other Christian Churches, schools and organizations; as well as others not affiliated with any particular faith but who are in accord with our mission of peace, healing and prayer. We value the many loyal friends and benefactors that have supported us in our ministry for over 70 years.

Advent 2020 at Mount St. Francis

Winter Stillness Retreat

Friday, December 11 – Sunday, December 13

A quiet weekend to be still in the silence during the season of Advent.

\$195

Twilight Retreat: O Come O Come Emmanuel

Tuesday, December 15

6:00 pm (Supper at 6:30 pm)

\$30

To Register for any of these Advent Retreats contact Deb at 403-932-2012

Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

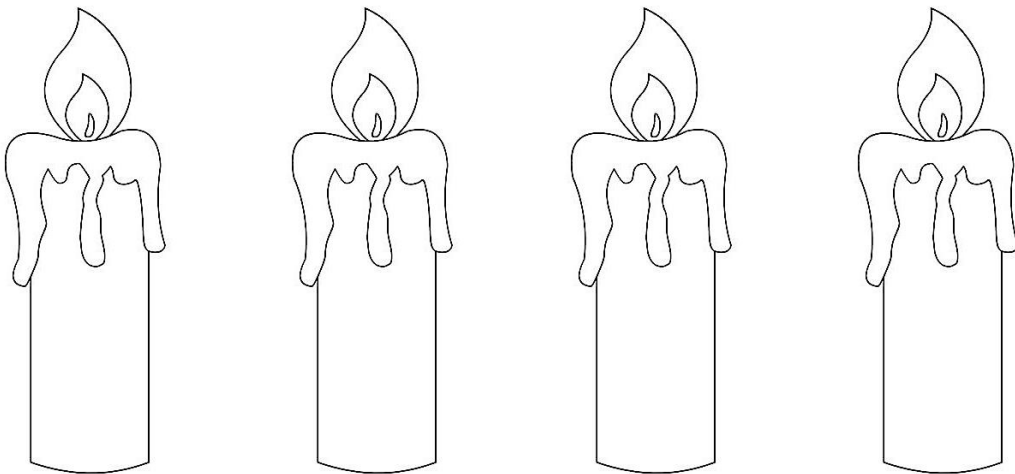
Greccio: A St. Francis Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 6

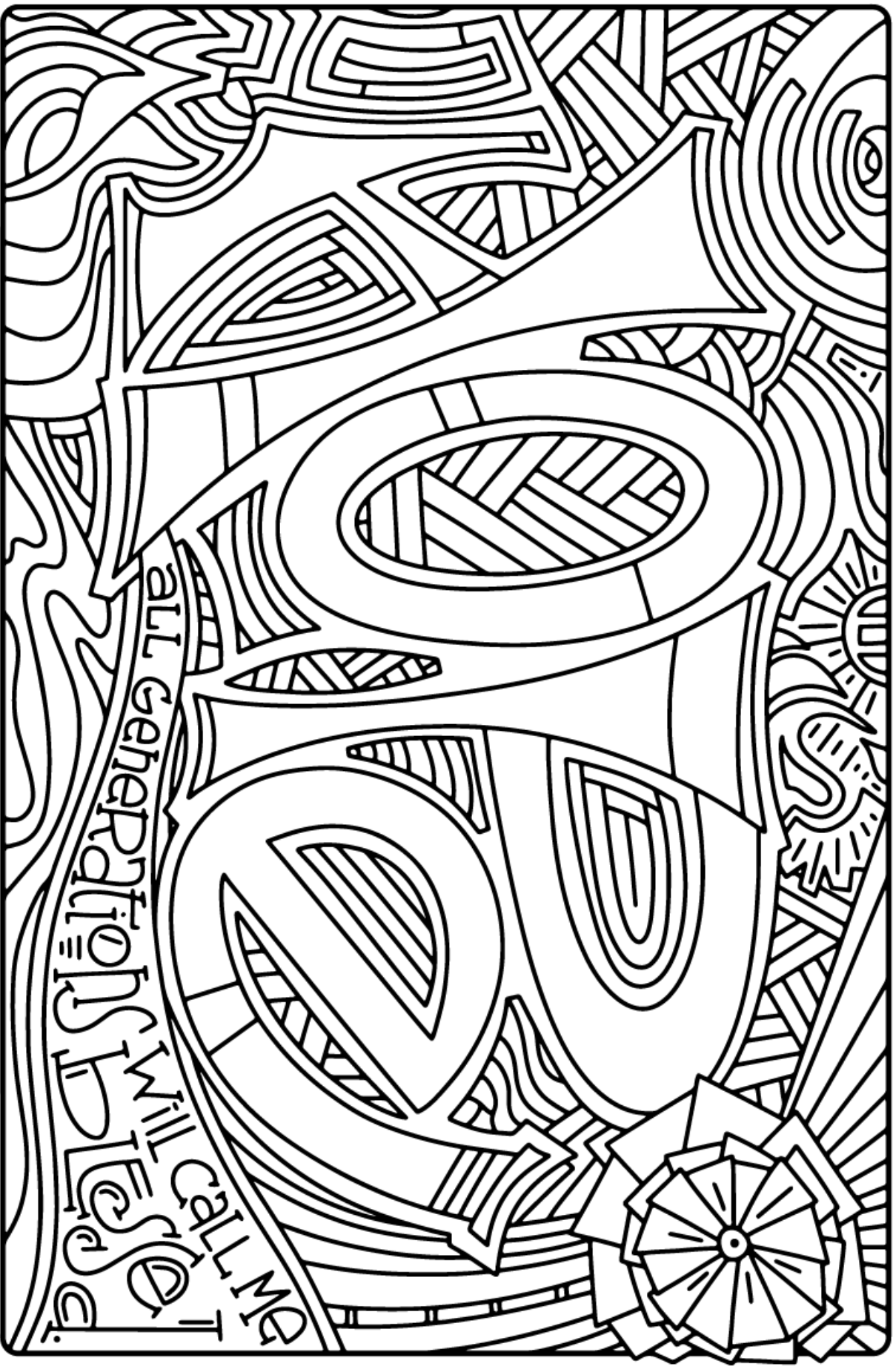
Check our website for updated information on this year's virtual event.

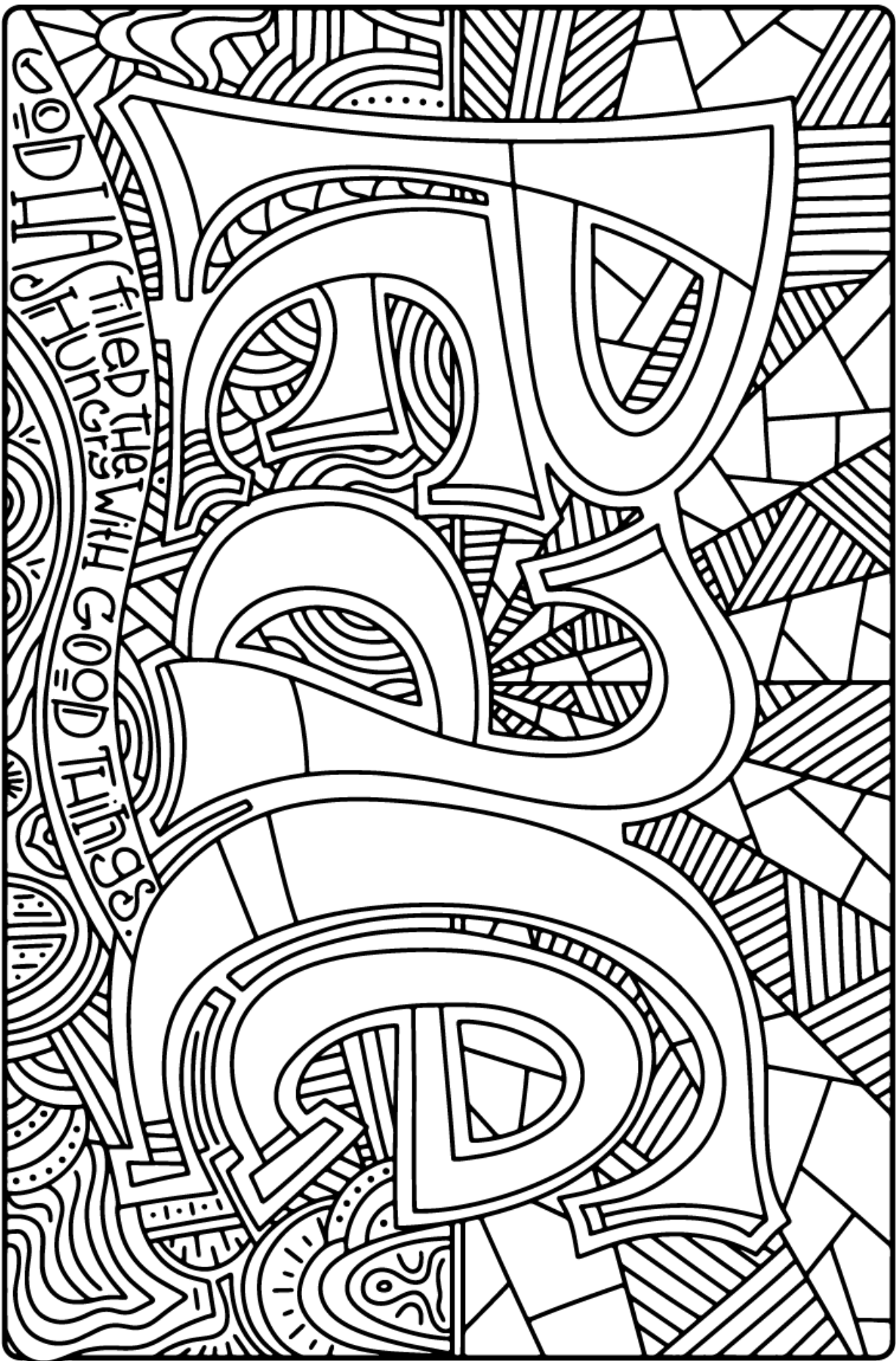
Advent Song:

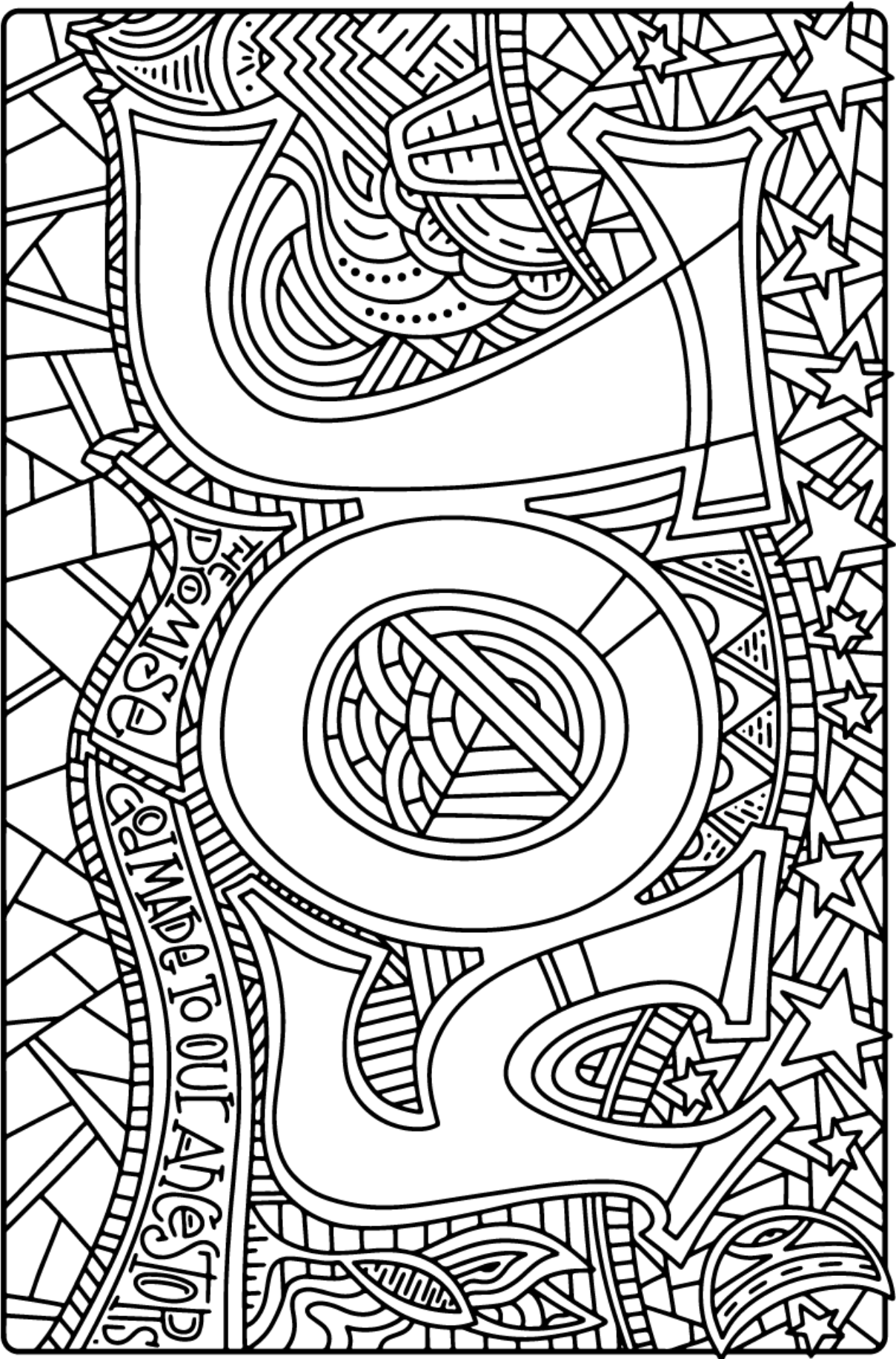
Sung to: "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"

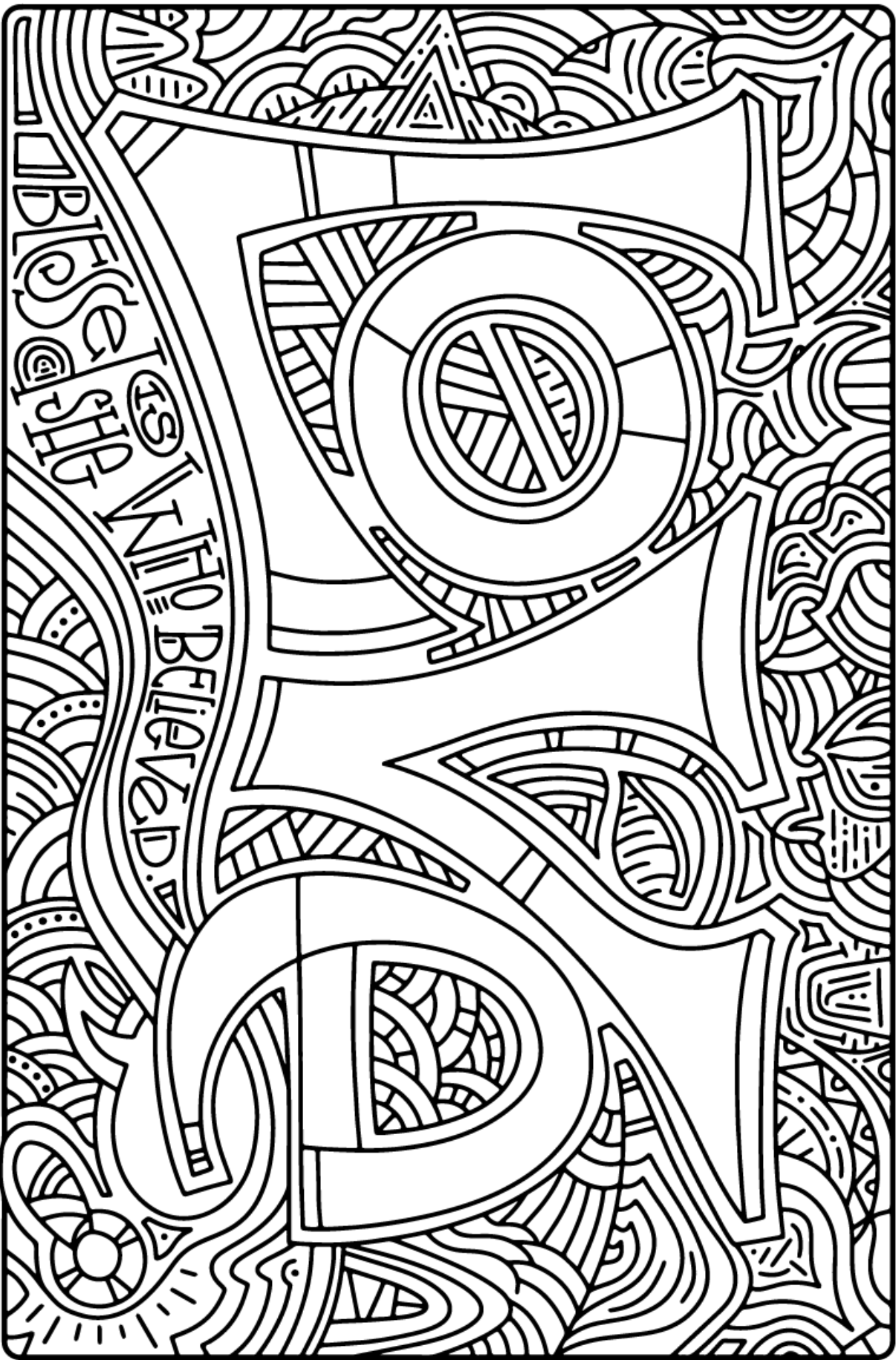
Advent is a time to wait
Not quite time to celebrate
Light the candles one by one
Till the advent time is done
Christmas day will soon be here
Time for joy and time for cheer.











St. Nicholas day is December 6th



10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH TRADITION

Posted by Arlene Abraham on 9th Nov 2016



The time is nearly upon us when our stores will be decked out in Advent wreaths. With wreaths bearing everything from elaborate manger scenes to simple greenery will grace our shelves, the choices are myriad. How do you use it once you have one? A good place to start is the advent wreath itself. We will share what you need to know to make your wreath and season meaningful and provide some extra tidbits of interesting information along the way.

1. THE WORD

“Advent” derives from the Latin verb “ven”, which means to come. Beginning on the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. Andrew, one week after the Feast of Christ the King, and encompassing four Sundays, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of the Lord. One of the most familiar traditions of the season is the Advent wreath, profuse in symbolism and lavishly radiating its promise. Read on to get all you need to know’.

Tidbit: Though the word Advent is of Latin origin, the tradition of the wreath is probably Germanic in nature.

2. THE HISTORY

Thought to be of pre-Christian Germanic origin, people lit candles and placed them on wreaths during the dark days of December as a sign of hope for the light to come with spring. Over time, the wreath was adapted by Christians, likely during the Middle Ages, to spiritually prepare for Christmas with Christ as the Light of the World.

Tidbit: Celebration of Advent using a wreath gained popularity in 19th century and was brought to America via German immigrants in the 1900s.

Christ is eternal; He has neither a beginning or an end. We can say the wreath itself reminds us of Christ's eternal presence with its circular shape.

Tidbit: As far back as the seventh century, wreaths were used in baptismal and wedding ceremonies.

3. THE SHAPE

Christ is eternal; He has neither a beginning or an end. We can say the wreath itself reminds us of Christ's eternal presence with its circular shape.

Tidbit: As far back as the seventh century, wreaths were used in baptismal and wedding ceremonies.

4. THE COMPOSITION

The tradition began with evergreen wreaths. Considering that this tradition goes way back, we might safely assume that people used what was available. Evergreens, plentiful and pliable, would have been a logical resource. Over time, people figured out how to use other materials, so wreaths are now made of metal, resin, ceramic...Many now include the Holy Family, inscriptions, stars, a depiction of Bethlehem, wise men, all manner of reminders of The Coming Lord in the form of candleholder wreaths.

Tidbit: To Catholics, evergreen symbolizes life. It remains green and alive even in the dead of winter.

5. THE CANDLES

Rich in symbolism, candles crown a wreath with meaning. Amen! Assuredly, the flame represents Christ as the Light of the World. As the season progresses, congregations and families become more hopeful and expectant as more candles are lit to indicate that the Light of the World is ever closer.

Tidbit: Consider that light casts away darkness.

6. THE COLORS

Typically, an Advent wreath bears four tapered candles: three purple and one pink. A Christ candle might also be included (more later on that). The three purple candles represent prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifice and are meant to remind us of the character our hearts should reflect during the season: One is pink and represents rejoicing. Some denominations call for blue candles, the peaceful color of the pre-dawn sky just before dawn. Advent is that time we wait for the approaching light - Our Lord.

Tidbit: The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" means rejoice, and we do so because we realize that we are more than halfway through our Advent journey.

7. THE PREPARATION

To be prepared, Select a wreath and purchase a purple and pink candle set well ahead of time. Remember that Advent lasts about four weeks and the first Sunday of Advent is a floating date, so aim for having all your ducks (or, should we say candles) in a row well ahead of the crowd. If you have everything ready before Thanksgiving, you can recover from your turkey dinner without that what-is-it-I'm-forgetting? feeling. We stock as many sets of tapers as we can get our hands on, but they will become scarce the last two weeks of November.

Tidbit: Don't stress about candles that seem wobbly in the candle cups on your wreath. Alleviate that with some handy little doodads called pliable wax candle fitters.

8. THE RITUAL

Traditionally, the Advent wreath is blessed at the beginning of the season. Here is one blessing:

Leader: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

Leader: Today we begin to prepare, through prayer and works of charity, for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Let us ask God's blessing upon this wreath that we will use to mark the days until the Lord's coming.

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Leader: Let us pray. Father of all creation and Lord of light, bless our wreath of evergreens and candles. Be present among us as we come together to celebrate in Scripture and prayer the coming of Christ. May our hearts and minds reflect the lights of these candles, that Christmas will find us joyfully ready to receive the Savior, Jesus Christ.

- The Family Advent Wreath: Blessings and Prayers

Tidbit: Some traditions set the blessing of the Advent wreath on the Saturday evening before the first Sunday of Advent. After Vatican II, an Advent wreath blessing was added to The Book of Household Blessings.

9. THE ROUTINE

Throughout the Advent season, the wreath is kept on display. Usually the candles are lit in the evening and prayers are offered up. The candles then remain lit during the evening meal.

- First Week of Advent - Bless the wreath, light one purple candle and offer up prayer.
- Second Week of Advent - Light two purple candles and offer up prayer.
- Third Week of Advent - Light two purple candles, one pink candle, and offer up prayer.
- Fourth Week of Advent - Light all the candles and offer up prayer.

The prayers change each week as the season progresses, Because there is such a wealth of ideas and variations on using the Advent wreath, this season is easily tailored to any family.

Tidbit: The themes for each week are Hope, Love, Joy and Promise.

10. THE GLORY

The four weeks have passed. It is Christmas Eve and Christ's presence is imminent. All of the candles burn as our reminder that there is One Great Light who will make himself known.

On Christmas Eve or Christmas day, Many people include a Christ candle on their wreath. The Christ Candle is white and would reside at the center of the Advent wreath. Many families like to decorate the Christ candle on Christmas Eve in anticipatory celebration of His coming.

After the season, when everything else has been wrapped up for next year, the Christ Candle should continue to be utilized. Bring it out for special moments, for we know that whenever two or more are gathered in His name, there He is. Light this candle in remembrance throughout the year

Tidbit: In medieval times Christ was customarily represented by a burning candle in the center of a laurel wreath and kept burning throughout the Holy Night and each night thereafter during the holy season. The tradition has been carried on over time and in many forms around the world.

We pray that your Advent season is filled with hope and blessed by His love!