

# ADVENT SEASON

November 23, 2014

## WHAT'S THIS?

Here are some interesting facts about the Season of Advent:

- The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet, which symbolizes the penitential spirit. You will see this in wall hangings and vestments worn by the priest;
- Advent means “coming” and is a time to recall the cry of the early Christians: Maranatha! — “Come, Lord Jesus!”
- Advent is a time for preparation and anticipation for both the second coming of Christ at the end of time and our celebration of his first coming on Christmas.
- The Advent wreath is made up of two parts – the wreath and the candles

November 30, 2014

## WHAT'S THIS?

This is the first week of Advent:

- Though the month of December is in reality a time of hustle and bustle, the season of Advent is, theologically and spiritually, a time of expectant waiting;
- The color of the wall hangings, vestments and the first candle lit on the wreath are all purple. This color is reminiscent of the night sky just before dawn;
- The wreath is circular and made of evergreens representing eternity and the everlasting life found in Jesus Christ;
- The first candle lit on the Advent wreath represents HOPE.

December 7, 2014

## WHAT'S THIS?

This is the second week of Advent:

- There is a light blue overlay added to the wall hangings to acknowledge the Feasts celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Mary (December 8) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12);
- The second candle lit on the Advent wreath represents LOVE.

December 14, 2014

## WHAT'S THIS?

This is the third week of Advent:

- A rose colored overlay is added to the wall hangings underscoring the dawn imagery of the season, evoking thoughts of a pre-morning sky;
- The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, which means “Rejoice” and marks the over-half-way point of Advent
- The third candle lit on the Advent wreath is rose colored and represents JOY.

December 21, 2014

## WHAT'S THIS?

This is the fourth week of Advent:

- Another purple overlay is added to the wall hangings taking us back to our state of anticipation;
- The fourth candle of the Advent wreath is lit and represents PEACE;
- With each new candle lit, we have drawn closer to the coming of our Lord and are reminded of His presence through the light of the candles burning brighter each week;
- Each of the four weeks of Advent represents one thousand years, in total four thousand years, which represents the time from Adam and Eve until the birth of Jesus Christ.

## ADVENT SEASON

November 20, 2016

### WHAT'S THIS?

#### ADVENT BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27, and continues until December 24. During this time we should be preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. **Advent should override all of the busyness that goes along with preparing for Christmas. It is not a time to prepare for the "holiday" of Christmas, but rather the "Holy Day" of Christmas.**



Remember, during this Advent Season, **WORSHIP FULLY, GIVE MORE, LOVE ALL AND PRAY DEEPLY.** Try reading more from your bible, listening to the religious songs of Christmas, going to Mass during the week, or talking about Advent with your friends. There is a fun website that focuses on the joy of Advent by offering an interactive Advent Calendar which gives you quotes, music, videos and challenges to help you connect with the true meaning of the season: <http://bustedhalo.com/advent>

#### *Advent Prayer*

*Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes, and peace to our hearts. Help us make room for the coming of Jesus into our lives once again. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes.*

*We pray in Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

*Excerpts taken from the Busted Halo website and [www.dynamiccatholic.com/bestadventever](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/bestadventever)*

## ADVENT SEASON

November 27, 2016

### WHAT'S THIS?

The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE**

The First Week of Advent: **REJOICING IN HOPE**

During Advent, we anticipate the Lord's coming with **hope**. It is **hope** that keeps us from despair and the darkness of sin and its destructiveness. It is a **hope** that urges us to be kind, loving and compassionate toward one another. It is **hope** that encourages our faith in a merciful God who continues to pour His grace upon us.

**HOPE** is the Catholic's version of "blessed assurance." We have confidence that God will give us the grace to persevere, and even better, to grow stronger in His love right up to the day of Christ Jesus. The virtue of **hope** is the eager, energizing expectation and confidence that He who began the work of salvation in us will bring it to completion.

Advent prayers of **hope** are prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers for deliverance, prayers of gladness and joyful expectation, prayers that await the light of Christ coming into the world.



December 4, 2016

### WHAT'S THIS?

The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE**

The Second Week of Advent: **PEACE**

The second Sunday of Advent is the one that best celebrates the imminent birth of the Prince of **Peace**. The **peace** Jesus brings is often spiritual and internal, often in spite of the turbulence that exists in the world around us. This week's theme can be tied to the unfolding Christmas story by reading the account of the Annunciation to Joseph from *Matthew 1:18-23*. The gentle carpenter was a man of **peace** who was also a strong, inspired man, chosen to love and protect the Baby Jesus and his mother, Mary.

**Peace** is what both old and young long for as we gather to celebrate Christmas this season. Perhaps the Christmas celebrations in our families might have room for some time of prayer and storytelling which would allow for those hopes to be voiced. For we celebrate the birth of the One who personifies **peace**: Jesus Christ, born into our world to fulfill the ancient longings of the human family.

A simple prayer that can be said to focus on **Peace** throughout the week might be:

*Dear Jesus, you enter our world on Christmas as the **Prince of Peace**. As we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding **peace**. Help us share that **peace** with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most.*

*Amen.*



## ADVENT SEASON

December 11, 2016

### WHAT'S THIS?

The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE**

The Third Week of Advent: **JOY**

Rose is the color associated with the third Sunday of Advent. Rose symbolizes **joy**, the **joy** that Jesus is almost here. Advent reminds us that there is **joy** in waiting, to not lose heart, the expected guest has almost arrived. By now, many of us most likely have our home ready for Christmas. But what about us? Have we made our spiritual home cozier and ready to welcome our special guest? Are we prepared for Jesus, the one we've been waiting for?

The holiday of Christmas may bring the burden of expectations, but Advent brings the **joy** of expectations. Instead of waiting for Christmas to be over, start longing for Christ to arrive! Contemplate and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



December 18, 2016

### WHAT'S THIS?

The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE**

The Fourth Week of Advent: **LOVE**

The fourth week of Advent represents **love**, the unconditional **love** that Jesus models for us. We are preparing for Jesus's coming, the One who **loves** us simply for who we are. The reason for the season is Jesus. The reason He is coming is to teach us to **love** unconditionally.

**Love** is patient; **love** is kind; **love** is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (*1Cor 13:4-8*).

May this time of cheerful anticipation be a time of **loving** others in all our Advent preparations.



# ADVENT SEASON

December 10, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

### 2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT

Advent is the liturgical season we celebrate as the precursor to the Christmas season. **Don't skip it! It's there for a reason!** Advent is our liturgically built-in time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. If you want to get the most out of the Christmas season and fill up your soul with love for Christ, the best way to do that is to “let every heart prepare Him room”—and celebrating Advent is the Church's way to do it! Advent connects us spiritually with God's whole plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. The Advent season has these characteristics:

It is a season of,

- Hopeful longing,
- Joyful expectation,
- Prayerful penance, and
- Spiritual preparation.

It looks to,

- Salvation history of the past,
- Our present redemption being accomplished, and
- The future coming of Christ.

There are only two full weeks of Advent remaining. Here are a few popular Advent traditions your family may consider for the time remaining:

1. Advent Wreath
2. Advent Devotional Reading
3. Advent Calendars
4. Nativity Scenes – To make a display especially poignant, wait until Christmas Eve to place the Baby Jesus into the scene.
5. Jesse Tree
6. Almsgiving – Good deeds and generosity have always been an important part of preparation for Christmas. Advent is a great time to practice spiritual and corporal acts of mercy such as Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children, volunteering at a nursing home or soup kitchen, visiting the sick in a hospital, or simply inviting people into your home who may have no friends or family of their own to celebrate the holidays with. If you can't find something to be a part of through St. John Vianney or our local community, be an organizer for a cause you're passionate about and get others involved.
7. Christmas Tree Blessing – When you finish decorating the Christmas tree, bless it with the Christmas tree blessing found on the USCCB website ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)).

Hopefully these ideas have given you inspiration to celebrate Advent in a new and deeper way this year.

Excerpts taken from [www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/how-to-celebrate-advent-like-a-catholic/](http://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/how-to-celebrate-advent-like-a-catholic/)

## ADVENT SEASON

December 17, 2017

### WHAT'S THIS?

#### 3<sup>RD</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT

Traditionally, this Sunday **used to be** known as *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for "Rejoice", which is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for this day.

The theme most associated with the third week of Advent is **JOY**. The color for the third Sunday of Advent is rose. The color rose symbolizes joy, the joy that Jesus is almost here. Advent reminds us that there is joy in waiting, to not lose heart, the expected guest has almost arrived. By now, most of us most likely have our home ready for Christmas. But what about us? **Have we made our spiritual home cozier and ready to welcome our special guest? Are we prepared for Jesus, the one we've been waiting for?**

The *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar* point out a special role for the weekdays of the week preceding Christmas. The weekdays from December 18-24 serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth (Norms 41). This special role is illustrated, for example, by the Scripture readings used in the liturgy on these days.

The holiday of Christmas may bring the burden of expectations, but Advent should bring the JOY of expectations. Instead of waiting for Christmas to be over, start longing for Christ to arrive! Contemplate and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

# ADVENT SEASON

December 24, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It is highly unusual that the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. This afternoon marks the end of the Season of Advent. This evening marks the beginning of the Season of Christmas Time.

### CHRISTMAS OCTAVE (DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1)

"**Octave**" has two senses in Christian liturgical usage. In the first sense, it is the eighth day after a feast, inclusively, and so always falls on the same day of the week as the feast itself. In the second sense, the term is applied to the whole period of these eight days, during which certain major feasts came to be observed. The Liturgy gives the clues, such as the *Gloria* repeated each day that every day within the octave is treated the same as the original solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord. Despite having four days within the octave that are feasts: St. Stephen, St. John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents and the Holy Family, each of these days is another "day of the octave of Christmas." The Octave of Christmas is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1. Since it falls on Monday, the holyday of obligation is dropped.

### THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The 12 Days of Christmas are now most famous as a song about someone receiving lots of presents from their "true love". The song, "The 12 Days of Christmas" is an English carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era, wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The 12 Days of Christmas start on Christmas Day and last until the evening of January 5<sup>th</sup>. According to Ann Ball in her book, *Handbook of Catholic Sacraments*:

- Day 1 (December 25<sup>th</sup>): The Partridge in the Pear Tree represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.
- Day 2 (December 26<sup>th</sup> also known as Boxing Day): The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Day 3 (December 27<sup>th</sup>): The three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- Day 4 (December 28<sup>th</sup>): The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Day 5 (December 29<sup>th</sup>): The five golden rings represented the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.
- Day 6 (December 30<sup>th</sup>): The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Original Source: Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP, Nebraska – Printed with permission from Catholic Tradition.

## ADVENT SEASON

December 2, 2018

### WHAT'S THIS?



The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** (December 2 – morning of December 24) are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE** – **Violet Vestments**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE** – **Violet Vestments**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY** – **Rose Vestments**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE** – **Violet Vestments**

Advent begins a new Liturgical Year for the Church and the Sunday readings for 2019 follow Year C with the Gospels of Luke.

#### December 8 – Immaculate Conception

During this first week of Advent, we celebrate the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, which is a Holyday of Obligation. Although our Gospel reading narrates the story of Jesus' conception, today's solemnity celebrates the Immaculate Conception of Mary, as she was conceived in her mother's womb. Prepared by God from the very first moment of her life to receive Jesus Christ, God's grace preserved Mary from sin from the womb to the end of her life because of her role in the mystery of salvation as the Mother of God. The vestment color for this solemnity is white.

Excerpts taken from the 2019 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays  
The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy

December 9, 2018

### WHAT'S THIS?



The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** (December 2 – morning of December 24) are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE** – **Violet Vestments**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE** – **Violet Vestments**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY** – **Rose Vestments**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE** – **Violet Vestments**
- December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

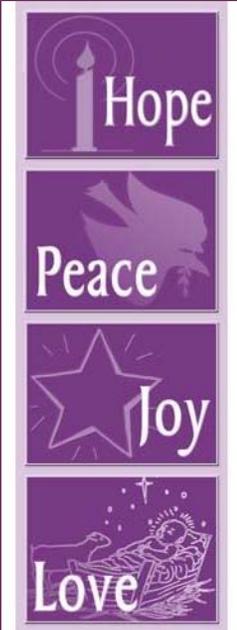
During the second week of Advent, the Church throughout America (North, Central and South) celebrates Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. This day is a feast day in the United States, but in many Hispanic countries, such as Mexico, it is raised to a solemnity. The story of the origins of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is well known. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin was a quiet, humble man, a poor peasant. When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to tell the local bishop to build a church in her honor, Juan Diego became a very reluctant messenger. The bishop would not believe him. So Mary filled Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak, with roses in December, and when he emptied out these beautiful flowers at the bishop's feet, there, imprinted on his tilma, was a wonderful image of the Virgin Mary, dressed like a young Aztec woman. The vestment color for this feast day is white.

Excerpts taken from the 2019 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays  
The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy

## ADVENT SEASON

December 16, 2018

### WHAT'S THIS?



The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** (December 2 – morning of December 24) are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE** – **Violet Vestments**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE** – **Violet Vestments**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY** – **Rose Vestments**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE** – **Violet Vestments**

The third Sunday in Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word for Rejoice. This week is a week of joy in the midst of our spiritual preparations for Christmas. "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5). The vestment color for this Sunday is rose. As we move into the second part of Advent, there is a sense of joyful expectation. Thus, the rose reminds us that on this day, we pause in our penitential spirit and rejoice that He is near.

Excerpts taken from the 2019 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays  
The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy

December 23, 2018

### WHAT'S THIS?

The themes most used for the four weeks of **Advent** (December 2 – morning of December 24) are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – **HOPE** – **Violet Vestments**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – **PEACE** – **Violet Vestments**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – **JOY** – **Rose Vestments**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – **LOVE** – **Violet Vestments**



There are less than two days of Advent remaining.

#### Christmas Time

*December 24 (evening) through January 13*

The liturgical year gives us the opportunity to **celebrate Christmas joy for twenty days this year**. What a blessing this is when the day-to-day challenges of life often can lack in true joy and when we see the marketplace remove everything Christmas after the post-Christmas sales of December 26.

Some facts you should know about Christmas Time:

- The primary purpose of this season is to memorialize the Lord's birth
- Christmas Time also encompasses the:
  1. Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
  2. Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
  3. Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
  4. Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- The traditional color is white with gold, or silver which are colors associated with joy in Christian liturgy
- The Gloria is reintroduced during Mass