

# Dear Padre,

## What do Advent-wreath candles signify?

Most Advent wreaths have three purple candles and one rose candle to echo the liturgical colors of the Church's Advent celebrations.

Whether the wreath is being used at home or in a church, the lighting of the candles should follow the liturgical colors of the Sundays of Advent. The vestments at Mass are purple during the first two weeks of Advent, so we light a purple candle on the first and second Sundays of Advent.

On the third Sunday, the Church celebrates *Gaudete* Sunday or Rejoice

Sunday, named after the first word of the day's traditional entrance verse (Philippians 4:4-5). The priest wears rose vestments at Mass as a sign of our brightening hope and joy, and on the Advent wreath we light the rose candle to reflect the theme of the liturgy. The fourth Sunday of Advent sees the lighting of the last purple candle.

Some churches and families add a fifth candle to their Advent practices by placing a white candle in the center of the wreath. They light this at Christmas, again echoing the Church's liturgical color for the season and rejoicing in Christ our

Lord, whose birth brings light and life to our world.

*Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal, to lead it to its fullness, which is the Lord....God is not distant, he is always with us, to the extent that very often he knocks on the door to our heart.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

## Calendar

### Monday

NOVEMBER 29

Advent Weekday

Is 2:1-5

Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday**

NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew,

Apostle

Rom 10:9-18

Mt 4:18-22

**Wednesday**

DECEMBER 1

Advent Weekday

Is 25:6-10a

Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday**

DECEMBER 2

Advent Weekday

Is 26:1-6

Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday**

DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier,

Priest

Is 29:17-24

Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday**

DECEMBER 4

Advent Weekday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26

Mt 9:35-10:1,

5a, 6-8

**Sunday**

DECEMBER 5

Second Sunday

of Advent

Bar 5:1-9

Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Lk 3:1-6

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A Redemptorist Ministry



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent (C)

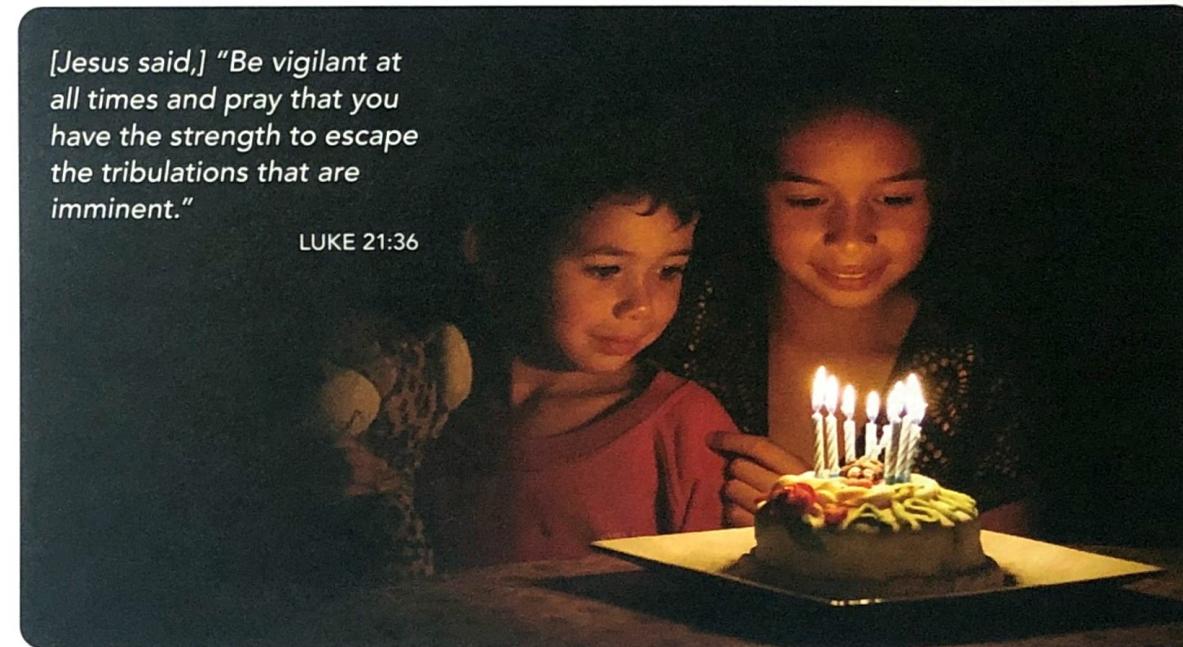
Jer 33:14-16

1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

*[Jesus said,] "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent."*

LUKE 21:36



## Birth Day

Our birth day is not the anniversary of our birth—that is our *birthday*. Our birth day is the actual day of our birth. However, we do have a second birth day and it is this day to which this Sunday's readings refer. We might call it our final birth day, the day when we are born into fulfillment. Jeremiah assures us that will be the day when God's promises will be fulfilled in us. We will finally have a righteous leader; the nation will be safe, and the place where God dwells amid the people will be secure.

In the Gospel, Jesus is probably speaking figuratively about the end of the world—at least the end of the world as it is known to humans. However, it is not the end of everything, for after cosmic destruction takes place, "then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27). After suffering the so-called birth pangs of the Messiah (see Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), something new will appear; we will see that our redemption is at hand. We will be born into a new life in a new world.

Advent is the time to look forward to this new birth day of fulfillment. We do not simply await the anniversary of Jesus' human birth day, for that day announced the coming of the final birth day of each of us. His birth announces our new birth.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ How are you preparing for your final birth day?
- ★ What do you find most striking in today's readings? Why?



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Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Monday, Nov. 29</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff</b>
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 30</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Harold Smith</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 2</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Special Intention (Powers Family)</b>
<b>Friday, Dec. 3</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Gorges Family</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 4</b>	<b>4:00p.m.</b>	<b>For the People</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 5</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Ruth Gorges</b>

Nov. 27, 4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
Nov. 28, 9:00 a.m.	Alvin Bergkamp
Dec. 4, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
Dec. 5, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
Dec. 11, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
Dec. 12, 9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones
Dec. 18, 4: 00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
Dec. 19, 9: 00 a.m.	K of C
Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve	Volunteer
December 26, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Borekelman

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

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**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT— NOVEMBER 28, 2021**



**TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT MY SOUL (Psalm 25)**

This Sunday we begin Advent, begin another Church Year. And each year on this Sunday we are invited to look long-range, look down the road, look at the big picture. We are asked to start the Church Year by sort of considering the entirety of our lives, the entirety of our personal histories, the entirety of our faith journeys. You might wonder why we need the season of Advent. It is to remind us of the incredible God we have, and the incredible things he was and is willing to do for us.

And so we once again start this holy season with our eyes fixed on two places --- on a manger in a small town long ago, and on the eternal home awaiting each of us, on the beginning of an incredible story and on the end, on the surprises life delivers and on the destination fixed in our minds and hopes and dreams.

Jesus is coming. Of that we can be sure. And so, may we use this holy season to truly prepare --- to open our hearts to our God who wants nothing more than come to us, dwell within us, and change us forever.

Have a blessed Advent everyone. Fr. Peter

**COLLECTION** for November 21, 2021: Envelopes: \$950.00; Loose: \$325.00; Online Giving: \$381.25  
Total \$1656.25; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under - 104.92. Votive \$88  
*Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

**CONGRATULATIONS** We would like to extend our congratulations to our newly Baptized, Tristan Esquivel, son of Julio and Jaden Esquivel who was baptized on November 27th, 2021. Welcome to God's family in the Church! May our Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon Tristan and his family.

**PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION** Please an extra effort to join in our parish reconciliation on December 5 at 7:00 p.m. to reconcile with God and with others to be ready ourselves to the Birthday of the Loving Jesus.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS Parish Pastoral Council & Knight of Columbus Meetings**— Wednesday, December 1 at 5: 30 and 7:30 p.m. **Parish Finance Council meeting**—Thursday, December 2nd at 5:30 p.m. **Parish Advent Reconciliation/Confession Service**—Sunday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. The **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Holy Day of Obligation**, Wednesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. **Parish Christmas Party**—Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Mass**—Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. **December 25— No Saturday Evening Mass at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. at Lakin & Deerfield.**

**ALTER SERVERS TRAINING** There will be two server trainings for all servers. Wednesday December 1 (6:30 p.m.) and Sunday December 5 (after 9:00 a.m. Mass). Please make an effort to have your child attend one of them. **5**

**PILLARS OF STEWARDSHIP HOSPITALITY**— We welcome and honor each person as a child of God. "Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels" (Hebrews 13:2). **PRAYER**—We worship, speak with, and listen to our Loving Lord. "As they prayed, the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 4:31). **EVANGELIZATION**— We spread the Good News of Jesus by our words and actions to all our siblings in Christ. "God, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:19). **SERVICE**—We provide Christ-like assistance to individuals, families, and communities. "Serve one another through love" (Galatians 5: 13). **FORMATION**— We teach and learn about God's plan for our lives. Christians "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, and to the communal life" (Acts 2:42).

**VOCATION VIEW** "The LORD is our righteousness." Are you being called to bring the word of God as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister?

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** "Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (adapted from a prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas) Give me, O Lord God, an ever watchful heart so that nothing may ever lure me away from you. Give me a noble heart that no unworthy affection shall ever draw downward to earth. Give me a heart of honesty that no insincerity shall warp. Give me a heart of courage that no distress shall ever crush or quench. Give me a heart so free that no harmful or thoughtless desire shall ever claim it for its own. Amen.

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)**

**Cataclysmic events** Most Jews expected violence and chaos to increase dramatically right before God established the fullness of his kingdom. The upheaval would be the result of the forces of evil trying to stop God from completing his transformation of the world. People expected the entire cosmos to become part of this upheaval. • celestial bodies would no longer give light • the oceans (symbols of death and chaos) would become dangerous again • heaven itself would shake at the enormity of what happens

**On the clouds** Clouds were signs of God's presence. • the Israelites followed a pillar of cloud out of Egypt and into Canaan (Exodus 13:21, 40:34-38) • a cloud surrounded Mt. Sinai when God made a covenant with his chosen people (Exodus 19:9) • a cloud descended upon the Jerusalem temple at its dedication (1 Kings 8:10-13) In Daniel 7:13-14 we hear how one like a son of man ascends on the clouds of heaven to receive power to bring about God's kingdom. This person is the opposite of the evil, monstrous figures that oppose God's reign. The son of man will vanquish such evil and establish an everlasting dominion. In this Gospel passage Jesus is the Son of Man who now descends from heaven to vanquish evil and establish God's reign. Jesus' first coming was marked by suffering and death. His second coming will manifest his power and great glory. Such language and imagery alludes to God's powerful presence in the history of his people.

**Have no fear** Some people will be so frightened by Christ's return that they will die of fright (v.26). The changes that will be evident when God's kingdom comes in its fullness are so dramatic that some people will recognize and dread how radically different their lives are about to become. Despite the events that will happen, those who remain faithful to Jesus have nothing to fear. On the contrary, they are to stand erect (rather than cower in fear) and raise their heads (v.28). God will bring them into the fullness of his kingdom.

**Until then** There is no indication when these events will occur. Instead, Jesus' followers hear how they must conduct themselves until that day comes. People must avoid becoming absorbed in things that don't last because such things will become irrelevant. Even the things people have to do shouldn't distract them from remaining hopeful and faithful. ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING** (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

**A brighter future** The reigns of King David and his son Solomon were a high point in the history of Israel. This prophecy was given centuries later, after the nation had been conquered several times and forced to endure hardship and humiliation. After these centuries of oppression, God's people longed for the peace and prosperity that their ancestors had enjoyed.

**A just shoot** Because King David had been both an able leader and devoted to the LORD, God promised that his descendants would always reign over Israel. This passage renews the hope that God would bring forth a ruler who would be as just, pious, and competent as David was. This new ruler would protect the people and help them follow God's law ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

**The Advent season begins today! Take time to reflect on how you will use the next four weeks to prepare your heart for Christmas. WHAT IS ADVENT?**

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of [Christmas](#).

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest will wear violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn (GIRM, no. 316). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar above can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. More Advent resources are listed below. ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))

**BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH**

The Advent wreath is made of four candles and a circle of branches. Before the first candle is lighted, the household gathers for this blessing.

*All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:* Our help is in the name of the Lord.

*All respond:* Who made heaven and earth.

*The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing.*

In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

*Then the Scripture is read:*

Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. Isaiah 9:1-2 (The family's Bible may be used for an alternate reading, such as Isaiah 63:16-17 or Isaiah 64:2-7.)

*The reader concludes:* The Word of the Lord.

*All respond:* Thanks be to God.

*After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and the in the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader invites:*

Let us now pray for God's blessings upon us and upon this wreath. After a short silence, the leader prays:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen. (The United States Conference of Catholic Bishop)

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Light up the night**

In an unusual conjoining of celebrations, we begin the season of Advent today as our Jewish friends begin the eight-day festival of lights known as Chanukah tonight. It's intriguing to reflect on how Advent too is an extended celebration of moving from the darkness of history into the light of Christ's coming. Light remains a symbol of spiritual illumination, abandoning the gloom of ignorance for knowledge and the shadow of foolishness for wisdom. As we string holiday lights and decorate with sparkling ornaments, let's consciously choose against error's dark deceptions and ally ourselves with the light of truth. (Prepare the Word)

**PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO**

**Iluminemos la noche**

En una inusual combinación de celebraciones, hoy comenzamos el tiempo de Adviento mientras nuestros amigos Judíos comienzan esta noche el festival de luces de ocho días conocido como Janucá. Resulta interesante reflexionar sobre el hecho de que el Adviento también es una celebración prolongada del paso de la oscuridad de la historia a la luz de la venida de Cristo. La luz sigue siendo un símbolo de iluminación espiritual, que abandona la oscuridad de la ignorancia por el conocimiento y la sombra de la necedad por la sabiduría. Cuando colguemos las luces de las fiestas y decoremos con adornos brillantes, elijamos conscientemente no caer en los oscuros engaños del error y unámonos con la luz de la verdad.