

Advent – A Time of Waiting

Now the waiting has begun. We welcome the beginning of another liturgical year, which begins with the First Sunday of Advent on November 29. The four weeks of Advent are a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth 2000 years ago. We are also reminded that we are awaiting the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. At mass, we hear the priest say: "We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ." And so, let us work diligently and faithfully at preparing our students not only for Advent and Christmas, but for the everlasting life to come.

The Liturgical Season of Advent

- The word *Advent* means 'coming', and it arrives with the coming of winter.
- It begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve.
- It is a four-week period of preparation and repentance (turning away from sin and towards God)
- Purple (or violet) is the liturgical color of Advent. You will notice that the altar cloth and chasuble (cloak) that our parish priests wear are this color. Purple is the color of penitence (sorrow for sins) and royalty (A King is born!)
- During Advent we remember Mary's expectation for the birth of Jesus, as well as John the Baptist who preached about his coming thirty years later.

Short Blessing for a Wreath

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits
the coming of its Savior,
who enlightens our hearts and
dispels the darkness of ignorance and
sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath;
May their light reflect the splendor of
Christ,
who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.