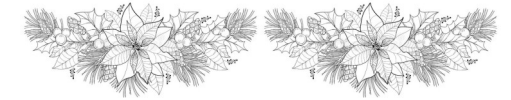




ADVENT IN THE HOME



THE ADVENT WREATH

The wreath is **circular**

- like a circle, God's life has no beginning or end.

The wreath is **evergreen**

- like a pine tree, God's love is everlasting.

The wreath has **four candles**

- like the candle flames, God's light grows in our hearts.

DAILY PRAYER

Each day, begin:

**ALL: In the Name of the Father + and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: Christ is coming soon!

ALL: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Week 1: Light one purple candle.

Leader: Christ our Light, shine in our hearts.

Help us share Your light this week
through our small acts of helpfulness.

We await Your coming to dispel the darkness.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Do not delay!

If it is mealtime, all can pray together:

**Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts
which we are about to receive
from Thy bounty
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**In the Name of the Father + and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Week 2: Light two purple candles.

Leader: Christ our Light, fill us with Your hope.

Help us give each other hope this week
by looking out for their needs.

We await Your coming to lift our spirits.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Do not delay!

Week 3: Light two purple candles and the rose candle.

Leader: Christ our Light, fill us with Your joy.

Help us make one another happy
by doing fun things together.

We await Your coming to make us glad.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Do not delay!

Week 4: Light all four candles.

Leader: Christ our Light, fill us with Your peace.

Help us to live peacefully with one another
by being patient and forgiving.

We await Your coming to bless our home.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Do not delay!

During Christmastide, replace the purple and rose candles
with red or white or gold candles, light them all, and pray:

Leader: Christ is born for us!

ALL: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Leader: Christ our Saviour, shine in our hearts.

Thank You for living with us in our home.

Help us to welcome You by being good to everyone.

ALL: Joy to the world: the Lord is come!

MAKE A SOFT BED FOR JESUS!

Decorate a tissue box to look like a manger. Then get some straw or wood shavings, or cut some thin strips of yellow paper. Prepare a box or jar with slips of paper on which are written tasks or prayers. Each day, the family members draw a slip, do what is written there, and when finished, put a piece of straw in the manger. Aim to have the box full by Christmas! Here are ideas:

- make someone's bed for them as a surprise
- say one decade of the Rosary for someone else
- read a bit from St Luke's Gospel for 5 minutes
- feed, water and brush the pets (or water the plants!)
- write a letter to someone who is old or alone
- offer to help prepare for dinner, or clean up after
- spend a few minutes in conversation with someone
- give up a favourite food or drink today

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY: 6TH DECEMBER

The night before, the children put a pair of their shoes outside their bedroom door. During the night, St Nick should put nice things in the shoes:

- a few lollies
- a coin or two
- a short note of love
- a holy medal or picture



St Nicholas (270-343) was the bishop of Myra in Turkey. He constantly gave charitable assistance to his people, and he was especially generous to children. He was one of the bishops who wrote the Nicene Creed in 325.