

## St Aloysius Religious Education The Advent Wreath



There is a metal advent candle ring and battery-operated candles in the prayer box. “Light” a candle each week of Advent and use the prayers below at the prayer table.

The **Advent Wreath** is very symbolic. The evergreens used for the wreath itself are a reminder of continuous life. The shaping of them into a circle reinforces that meaning. The circle is also a sign of everlasting life as well as the eternity of God.

The four candles, *three purple (or blue) and one pink*, mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and sacrifice to prepare us for the coming of Christ among us. On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit to announce *Gaudete* Sunday; a Sunday of rejoicing for Christ is coming near. With the lighting of that candle, the light has won out over the darkness (three candles lit vs. the one that remains unlit). Contrary to the dimming light of day (*as we enter the winter season*) the light of the Advent wreath grows brighter as Christ draws near!

The candles are traditionally lit in the following order: **purple, purple, pink, purple.**

The first is the *Candle of Hope* symbolizes the faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second is the *Candle of Preparation*, reminding Christians to "get ready" to receive God. The third candle is the *Candle of Joy*, recalling the angels joyfully singing that the birth of Christ is near. The fourth candle, the *Candle of Love*, reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.

The **Christ Candle**, a white candle in the center is a sign of purity, stands for Jesus Christ himself, the sinless savior.

The Liturgical vestments at Mass match the colors of the candles.

The **Advent Wreath** is a sacramental that draws us into prayer. As your family prepares for the approaching celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ – Christmas – say the following prayers each week when lighting the candles:

# ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

## *Opening Prayer :*

**O GOD, BLESS THIS ADVENT WREATH.  
MAY IT HELP US PREPARE TO WELCOME JESUS, YOUR SON,  
INTO OUR LIVES.  
MAY THE LIGHT OF HIS LOVE SHINE THROUGH US. AMEN.**

## **WEEK 1- First Sunday of Advent** (Light candle # 1) – *HOPE*

**WE BELIEVE IN YOU, LORD.  
WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN HELP US  
TO LOVE AND RESPECT EACH OTHER MORE.  
YOU ARE OUR LIGHT,  
THE LIGHT THAT OVERCOMES DARKNESS.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*

## **WEEK 2 – Second Sunday of Advent** (Light candles #1 & # 2) – *LOVE*

**COME, LORD JESUS.  
WARM OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR LOVE.  
HELP US TO PREPARE FOR YOUR COMING.  
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS WE CAN DO.  
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS OTHERS DO.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*

## **WEEK 3 – Gaudete Sunday** (Light candles #1, #2, #3) – *JOY*

**JESUS, WE WANT YOUR COMING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN HOW WE LIVE AND LOVE.  
OPEN OUR HEARTS TO HEAR YOUR TELLING US  
HOW WE CAN BRING PEACE AND JOY TO OTHERS.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*

## **WEEK 4- Fourth Sunday of Advent** (Light candles #1, #2, #3, #4) – *PEACE*

**LORD JESUS,  
QUIET THE WORRIES AND FEARS IN OUR HEARTS.  
GIVE US YOUR PEACE.  
THANK YOU FOR THE LIFE YOU SHARE WITH US.  
HELP US TO SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH OTHERS.  
COME, LORD JESUS!**

*(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)*