



NOVEMBER FAMILY ACTIVITY #2 CREATE AND LEARN ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH!



Advent begins on Sunday November 29, 2020

To celebrate this special season in our Liturgical Church Year we would like all of our families to create an Advent Wreath! This special wreath can be placed on your prayer table or some other special place where the entire family can enjoy it all during the season of Advent. (Remember to change the cloth on your prayer table or space to purple for Advent or see the October opening video for suggestions if you do not have a purple cloth) If your family already has an Advent Wreath ...wonderful...if not there are many ways to make one. You can look on Pinterest or Google how to make an Advent Wreath to find some very creative ways to make one. You can go to your local craft store for the material or just use the paper one included with this activity. The wreath itself is important, however understanding the meaning behind the wreath is just as important! As you put together, color or create your Advent Wreath, our focus this month will include your family learning and understanding what each part of the wreath stands for as we journey toward Christmas. There are prayers included for your family to prayer as you light (or color) the weekly candle.

Don't forget to Email a picture of your wreath! (egarfold@blessedtrinityphg.net or ceisenbarth@blessedtrinityphg.net) Let's begin!

The Circular Evergreen Wreath: The circle, which has no beginning and no end, symbolizes the eternity of God, immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The evergreen branches signify continuous or everlasting life.

Four Candles: The candles represents that Christ is the Light of the World. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday in Advent with a special meaning associated with each week. There are three purple candles which is the liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice and one pink candle which represents joy.

First Purple Candle: The first purple candle symbolizes hope and is lit on the first Sunday in Advent. It is called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets (especially Isaiah) who foretold the birth of Christ.

Second Purple Candle: The second purple candle, lit on the second Sunday, represents faith and is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminds of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Third Pink Candle: The third candle is pink because pink or rose is the liturgical color that symbolizes joy and is lit on the third week of Advent. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle" to remind us that just like the shepherds we also experience joy at the birth of Jesus. We are also joyful that we have reached the midpoint of Advent!

Fourth Purple Candle: The final purple candle is lit on the fourth week of Advent to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This candle is called the "Angel's Candle" and reminds us of the Angels message of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men."

White Candle: (optional) Some Advent wreaths have a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. It is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. The color white is for light and purity because Jesus is our sinless, pure Savior; the Light of the World!

ADVENT FAMILY PRAYERS

As you gather your family to light your Advent wreath, use the following prayers to focus your reflection. When praying the last sentence, trace a Sign of the Cross on our forehead lips and heart, as we do at Mass before the Gospel Reading. You are welcome to include a special scripture reading to your weekly prayer or create special prayers of your own.

First Week of Advent: Purple

Jesus, as we wait for your coming, help us not to be afraid to trust in you. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of hope into our lives. May your Word always be in our minds, on our lips and in our hearts. **Amen.**

Second Week of Advent: Purple

Jesus, John the Baptist told the people, “If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn’t have any. If you have food, share it with someone else.” As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of service into our lives. *May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts. Amen.*

Third Week of Advent: Pink

Jesus, we gather here as a family to dedicate our lives to you, as John the Baptist did. Help us to know, love, and serve you. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of joy into our lives. *May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts. Amen.*

Fourth Week of Advent: Purple

Jesus, your mother, Mary, is “blessed among women.” We are happy that she said “Yes!” to being your mother. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of love in our lives. *May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts. Amen.*



Name _____

