

Family Faith Formation Opportunities

ADVENT

Did you know that the season of Advent is the beginning of the Liturgical year? Advent is the time to help us prepare; a time to pray and reflect in anticipation for the arrival of the birth of Jesus. It is the season that leads up to Christmas.



Each Sunday during advent, a candle is lit on the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath contains four candles: three purple and one rose (lit on the third Sunday of Advent). Each candle lit represents a part of the spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus. There are many symbolic meanings of the candles but they are often:

1. **Hope** - *expectation of what is to come*
2. **Love** - *sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle*
3. **Joy** - *this rose candle is often called Mary's Candle*
4. **Peace** - *often called the Angel's Candle*

The color of Advent is purple which is similar to Lent. The color is a reminder for us to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord. You might see purple used not only around the church but also in the vestments of the priests and clergy. The only time you might see a difference will be on the third Sunday where the priests might wear rose colored vestments. The rose color is to remind us that Christmas is drawing near.



Did you also know that St. Peter's School will have many activities in the making as the Advent and Christmas season approaches? Here are some examples of what you can expect:

- Each homeroom class has its own Advent Wreath which will be blessed during morning assembly
- Each class discusses Advent and how the children can prepare for the birth of Jesus
- The children will be going to Confessions during the season
- A Nativity scene will be placed in the school foyer
- The classroom doors will be decorated to prepare for the Christmas season
- The faculty participates in a Christmas Angel exchange gift

Here are some additional ways families can keep the Advent season's religious traditions at home:

- Create your own Advent Wreath - https://www.loyolapress.com/~media/Images/Loyola%20Press/ocf-articles/advent/pdf_135605_advent_wreath.ashx?la=en
- Create your own Advent calendar - <https://prayingincolor.com/handouts>