

...at "loveth
knoweth God.
at loveth not know
for "God is love.
was "manifested
toward us,
and begotten

Celebrate Christ! From Faith to Love



Advent 2021

Advent is our time of waiting in “devout and joyful expectation” (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year, 39*) for the celebration of Christ’s Incarnation and also for his second Coming. We prepare as we wait by giving a little more to the poor and taking stock of our souls, as well as baking cookies and thinking about gifts for those we love. We wait, as did our spiritual; ancestors, to celebrate the nativity of the Messiah. The first Sunday of Advent is also when the Church begins her new calendar year.

We begin our Advent with a week of Scriptures called the Messianic Prophecies. The prophets foretell where Jesus will be born and who his mother will be. They also predict Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, his title of Good Shepherd, and that he will suffer. In the second and third week of our waiting we hear encouraging words that the Messiah will be the Light that breaks the darkness of injustice and brings peace. We’ll hear the call of John the Baptist to “Prepare the Way of the Lord” (Luke 3:4). Our final week tells the great Infancy Narrative stories of the angel’s announcement to Mary and reassurance to Joseph, and Mary’s visit to Elizabeth with her joyful hymn of praise for God’s wonderful work, the *Magnificat*.

(This section is taken from *Children’s Daily Prayer 2021-2022*)

Liturgy section

The Sounds of the Season

Long before the First Sunday of Advent arrives each year, the sounds of Christmas seep into our daily living. Whether in the car, at the grocery store, in our schools, or even in our homes, classic holiday tunes echo through the air well in advance of the birthday of Jesus. Advent needs our waiting, our patience. It needs us to take our time, to sing another verse, to wait with bated breath for the lighting of another candle, for a pregnant pause before we begin, for the gathering up of the Light of Christ in the midst of the Body of Christ on these darkest days of the year... But rather than dismiss the world's seemingly overwhelming secularization of these holy days, we have an opportunity to rehearse the already-not-yet, hope-filled proclamation: that the Reign of God can be already among us and still on the way all at once.

The Look of the Season

There was a time in the history of the liturgical calendar when Advent was seen primarily as a penitential season. Although this characteristic is not entirely set aside, the nature of Advent also allows for a less somber tone as a result of our understanding of the season, as a time having a certain feel of joyful anticipation of the feast of Christ's birth. This does not mean that Advent succumbs to the overexuberant festivity that is evident in commercial displays of Christmas decoration; nor does it mean that Advent takes on the more sober tone of Lent. The liturgical and spiritual nature of Advent is somewhere in between!

(This section is taken from *Sourcebook 2022*, published by LTP)

Scripture & Discussion

Gathering together, take time once each week during Advent to read again through the Gospel for Sunday and discuss as a family or those you are close to the discussion question.

Advent week 1: November 28, 2021

Gospel: Luke 21. 25-28, 34-36

Your redemption is drawing near.

Discussion/ What word or phrase from the gospel will you carry with you this week?

Advent week 2: December 5, 2021

Gospel: Luke 3. 1-6

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Discussion/ Reflect together on the assurance given to us by the gospel reading.

Advent week 3: December 12, 2021

Gospel: Luke 3. 10-18

The crowds asked, "What should we do?"

Discussion/ How can we as a family or community give more joyful expression to our faith?

Advent Week 4: December 19, 2021

Gospel: Luke 1. 39-45

Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

Discussion/ How do we discover God's will for ourselves and be there for each other?

*Check out the Calendar for Saints to learn about
and other Special Dates during Advent*

November 30	St. Andrew, Apostle
December 3	St. Francis Xavier, Priest
December 7	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor
December 8	The immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 13	St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
December 14	St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor

December 17-24 O Antiphons. One of the liturgical indications of the days of preparation for Christmas is the Antiphons for the 'Canticle of Mary' at Evening Prayer, called the "O" Antiphons, as "O" begins each one. The Antiphons are also used as the Gospel Acclamation verse for the day. The hymn "O Come, Emmanuel" is based on these Antiphons and is fittingly used at Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours.

(This section is taken from the *Ordo: Liturgical Calendar 2021-2022*)



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