

An Act of Hope

As we wait and pray through Advent and through any difficulty, we have the supreme Hope of the Coming of our Lord:

O my God, relying on Your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

Amen.

Bishop Baker has prepared messages of Hope for every day of Advent. See "Reasons for Hope" on the EWTN website at

<https://www.ewtn.com/advent/reasonsforhope/index.htm>

Advent Reading Suggestions

Redemptoris Mater (Mary: God's Yes to Man)

by St. Pope John Paul II (on Formed.org)*

The Blessings of Christmas

by Joseph Ratzinger (on Formed.org)*

Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings by Alfred Delp (on Formed.org)*

Around the Year with the von Trapp Family

by Maria Augusta von Trapp

The True Meaning of Christmas

by Fulton J. Sheen

Sermons of St. Francis de Sales for Advent

***To access Formed using St. Paul's account:**

Go to www.FORMED.org

Use code CW4J7P and follow the instructions.

Other Resources

<http://usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cm>

<https://www.ewtn.com/advent>

Preparing the Manger

Preparing the manger is a fun way for children to get ready for Christmas. A soft bed in the manger is made for the Baby Jesus by using wisps of straw (or yarn) as tokens of prayers and good works performed through the season of Advent.

There are many ways to do this. The family can have one empty manger or crib into which the children add a straw for each extra prayer, good work, or sacrifice made. Alternatively, each child can have his own small manger (made out of wood or even paper) to prepare for the Christ Child.

Watching the straw pile up as the good works increase is exciting, knowing they represent our gifts to Jesus.

Then, at the end of Advent, a lovingly padded crib awaits the Christ Child.



December 9th
*Feast of the Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Mark Your

Calendars!

Advent 2019

Dec. 1 - 24

Gifts for the Christ

Child: My Resolutions

Spiritual Reading

Prayers

Alms

WEEK ONE: Hope

Advent

Advent: from the Latin *Advenire* (to come to)

Christ is coming!

On this first Sunday of Advent, we reflect on the prophecy of God's Kingdom and His judgment between the nations, of His ultimate reign of peace. Jesus reminds us that He will return at an unexpected time, and that we must be prepared for judgment. Thinking of judgment and the end of the age can be troubling. If we listen seriously, it can arouse us from the complacency and the many distractions of our modern lives. As St. Paul reminded us, we are not without hope, because we are not left to manage our souls alone. Jesus comes: first as the baby in the manger of Bethlehem, next in our own lives, and then finally at the end of time. There is particular judgment at the end of each of our lives, and there is the general judgment at the end of time. That would be terrifying, except for the hope that we have in Christ as our Savior, of His grace and His mercy as we seek to persevere through the trials of life. Advent gives us a special time to wait, to become more keenly aware of both the need and the reality of our Hope: The Word made flesh, who comes to each of us.

The Advent Wreath

The circle symbolizes the eternity of God, and the evergreens remind us of the soul's life and immortality. We remember that Jesus is the Light of the World as we light the candles, illuminating our spiritual darkness. Advent is a penitential season, so the candles are purple except for the rose candle used on Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday.



Watch your bulletin for more helpful information about this beautiful season!

*Wishing you
a Blessed Advent!*

*Your friends in our local
Fr. James E. Coyle
Council 9862 of the Knights
of Columbus*

An Advent Prayer

The following prayer is for each day of the first week of Advent, using the Advent wreath as part of the family liturgy. After the prayer, the youngest child lights the first purple candle – or family members can take turns lighting and blowing out the candles each night.

*Leader: O Lord, stir up
Your might, we beg You,
and come, that by Your
protection we may deserve
to be rescued from the
threatening dangers of our
sins and saved by Your
deliverance. Through Christ
our Lord.*

All: Amen.