

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is one of the most popular and meaningful symbols that we as Christians have in the time leading up to Christmas. Your Parish Church will almost certainly have one. There could be one in your classroom and your house, as well.

Here are some interesting facts about the Advent Wreath.

- The Wreath candles show the contrast between darkness and light. Jesus is the light of the world.
- The circle shows that God has no beginning nor an end. His love is never ending, and we strive for eternal life.
- The 4 candles represent the four Sundays of Advent. Another tradition points to humanity waiting for a Saviour for 4,000 years. Recently, there is often a fifth candle in the middle of the circle, representing Christ.
- The first candle is purple and represents HOPE; the second candle is purple and represents PEACE; the third candle is rose and represents JOY (Gaudete Sunday); the fourth candle is purple and represents LOVE. (Some traditions change the order of three of the candles, but the third is always JOY).
- Violet, or purple, is the traditional colour of Advent, representing prayer, penance and sacrifice.
- The wreath is usually made of evergreen branches, representing eternal life. It also may have holly leaves and berries, representing the Jesus' Passion and Blood. Pine cones symbolise the Resurrection.

An Advent Wreath is a great activity to be done with children during Advent. Ideas for construction can be readily found on the internet. Resources are available at Catholic Bookstores.

Below is an example of a simple Advent Wreath. More elaborate ones can be found easily on the internet.

