

Advent: Waiting for Jesus

Teaching:

- For Grades 1-5, watch these videos for each week of Advent: [Week 1](#), [Week 2](#), [Week 3](#), [Week 4](#)
 - * The content starts 1 minute into each video. Watch one video each week for the 4 weeks of Advent.
- For Grades 6-8, watch [What is Advent Again?](#)
- For Adults, watch [Great Family Activities for Advent](#)

November 29 began the Season of Advent in the Catholic Church. Learn what Advent is all about and how you as a family can celebrate the Season of Advent.

The Advent House

Getting Christmas decorations out of storage and putting them up can be a great hassle. Here is an alternative that keeps the Spirit of Advent alive. On the First Sunday of Advent, put out just one small decoration. Then each day of Advent add one more decoration. As Christmas approaches, put up the larger items (tree, wreaths, nativity, etc.). You can even have your family guess what decoration went up each day—as it gets closer it will be harder to guess! Your house will become a visual Advent calendar, counting down to Christmas and at the end of Advent, your house is decorated for Christmas!



The Advent Wreath

Participate in the Advent Wreath tradition. The evergreens represent the constant and eternal presence of God. The shape of a circle reminds us that God's love is never ending. Four candles are placed on the wreath to symbolize the four Sundays before Christmas. Three candles are purple (the color of the season) and one (lit on the third week of Advent) is pink to symbolize the joy of the nearness of Christmas. A fifth white candle (the Christ candle) is placed in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas day. Each Sunday of Advent, light the next candle and pray this [short prayer](#).



The Advent Chain

Typical of the weeks before Christmas, children often have a countdown to the big day. This year, try this interesting twist. Make a paper Advent Chain to celebrate the Season of Advent. On each link, write a task to be completed. A list of ideas can be found [here](#). As you remove one link each day and the chain grows shorter you are counting down the days, but also being disciples of Christ for one another.



Advent Prayer

4, 3, 2, 1...

Count the weeks 'til Jesus comes.

Each week we add another light.

Our hope for Jesus growing bright.

We pray, we share, we do our part...

to welcome Jesus to our heart!



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS.



Be a Christ Kindl

Christ Kindl is a German tradition that teaches the spirit of giving. Each person selects the name of another member of the family through a secret drawing. Remind them to keep their *Christ Kindl's* name secret until Christmas Eve (like a Secret Santa). All through Advent, they do unseen favors for their *Christ Kindl* as they would for the Christ Child. On Christmas Eve, they reveal the identity of their *Christ Kindl*. This emphasizes the real experience of giving: not an exchange of material things, but rather gifts from a caring heart.

Jesus, just as you came among us with your message of love and peace, this week we pray to you for _____, who need you to renew their hope in you. Let them not lose faith and always walk alongside you. We ask you this wholeheartedly. Amen.

Pray one of these prayers as a family during the Season of Advent.