

Dear Families,

I wish you a blessed Advent Season as we all prepare our Hearts for the Birth of Christ.

What is great about celebrating the coming of Jesus with children is that they help us approach the season with fresh eyes and insight. They present us with a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge they present is the way they soak up the values of the culture that has had them anticipating Christmas since the beginning of November. The opportunity they present is that we can introduce them to the timeless rituals celebrating the coming of the Messiah that will add depth to their spiritual lives. One Ritual, the Advent Wreath, is described below.

Make an Advent wreath and place it in the middle of the dining room table. An Advent wreath consists of a frame holding four candles placed inside a circle of evergreens. The greenery in the wreath symbolizes the promised new life in Jesus. The four candles denote the four Sundays of Advent. There are three purple candles and one rose candle. Purple is a sign of penance, and rose is the color denoting the anticipation of joy. Light a candle on each Sunday evening of Advent, saying a short prayer or singing a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The light of the candles represents the light coming into the world as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

### **Blessing the Advent Wreath with Children**

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

### **Advent Prayer for Families**

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen

Advent Blessings,  
Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.	<b>2</b> I will do my work well today and with joy for God.	<b>3</b> <u>St. Francis Xavier</u> I will secretly do a kind act for someone.	<b>4</b> I will obey my parents, my teachers, and others in charge of me.	<b>5</b> I will be kind in a special way to someone I do not like much.	<b>6</b> <u>St. Nicholas</u> I will donate like-new toys and books I've outgrown to needy families.	<b>7</b> <u>St. Ambrose</u> I will work hard today and do my best.
<b>8</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> I will try to show special love for someone who seems unhappy or lonely.	<b>9</b> <u>Immaculate Conception of Mary</u> I will honor Mary in a very special way today by being cheerful.	<b>10</b> I will keep calm and not lose my temper when I am pushed or treated rudely.	<b>11</b> I will do some work for my parents to help them rest after a day of work.	<b>12</b> <u>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</u> I will ask Mary to help me make room for Jesus in my heart.	<b>13</b> <u>St. Lucy</u> I will eat more of what is good for me today and less of what is not.	<b>14</b> <u>St. John of the Cross</u> I will try to be more thoughtful of others.
<b>15</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> I will find a quiet place and sit for a few minutes, just letting God love me.	<b>16</b> I will not complain today, even if I must do things I do not want to do.	<b>17</b> I will try to be patient today.	<b>18</b> I will make a special effort to be kind to those I find it hard to like.	<b>19</b> I will speak kindly to all I meet today.	<b>20</b> I will be helpful at home these last days before Jesus' birthday.	<b>21</b> <u>St. Peter Canisius</u> I will give a smile to all I meet today.
<b>22</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> I will thank God for all he gives to me.	<b>23</b> I will do what I can to please my parents and family in a special way today.	<b>24</b> I welcome Jesus with great love and offer him all the good acts I have performed and the prayers I have said during Advent.	<b>25</b> MERRY CHRISTMAS!			
<b>ADVENT 2019</b> <i>May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.</i>						
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