



Mater Dei Catholic High School

Campus Ministry News

December 2022

An Advent Prayer

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan.

Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

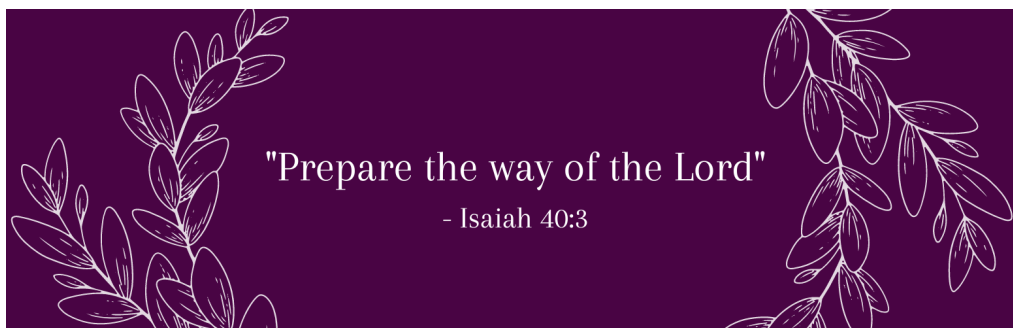


What is Advent?

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. (USCCB)

Mater Dei Events

- * Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. George Mauck will be celebrating Mass in the practice gym at 9:40 a.m.
- * The Mater Dei Seniors will volunteer for three weeks during their Senior Service Project. They will be away from Mater Dei starting January 3, 2023 through January 20, 2023. The Seniors will be volunteering at 42 different locations through out the Southern Illinois and the St. Louis region. Students are being asked to spend 5 days a week volunteering, for the minimum of 6 hours a day, at the site they have been assigned. During their service project students will complete a journal that encourages them to think deeper about their experience and how it related to their faith.





Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE** or **CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

Resources

About Advent

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/>

Catholic Advent Traditions

<https://www.catholicicing.com/10-meaningful-advent-traditions-for-catholic-families-with-little-to-no-prep-work/>

Advent Traditions for Catholic Families

<https://reginaangelorumacademy.org/advent-traditions-for-catholic-families/>

Catholic Traditions for Advent and Christmas

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/catholic-traditions-for-advent-and-christmas.html>

Blessing for a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/objects/blessing-of-a-christmas-manger-or-nativity-scene>

Prayer Meditation, and Scripture

<https://amenapp.org/>

