

# Brief Story Of Advent



## History Of Advent

Season of Advent begins next Sunday, November 29. The word "advent" comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming," particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance. It is a time for the church to prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, his continued presence with us today through the Holy Spirit and to anticipate his return at the Second Coming of Christ. The season of Advent is also a period of both repentance and celebration as Christians spend time in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The 4 weeks of the Advent season represent an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination. On the fourth week we joyously celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Messiah.

The advent wreath is circular representing God's infinite love which has no beginning or end. The wreath is made of evergreen branches which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ who died, but who is alive, never to die again. The evergreen branches also symbolize our soul's immortality and reminds believers that our God grants new and everlasting life in Jesus Christ.



## Significance Of The Candles

The lighting of an Advent wreath is a traditional custom that originated in Germany in the 16th-century. There are 5 candles in the Advent wreath, comprised of: 3 purple candles, 1 pink candle and 1 white candle. On the first Sunday a purple candle is lit. It is called the "Prophecy Candle" and recalls the prophets, particularly Isaiah who foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. It represents hope or expectation of the coming Messiah. On the second Sunday a purple candle called the "Bethlehem Candle," is lit. This candle represents love and symbolizes Christ's manger. On the third Sunday the pink candle is lit. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word meaning "rejoice." The change from purple to pink signifies the transition in season from repentance to celebration. The pink candle is called the "Shepherds Candle" and represents joy. The last purple candle is called the "Angels Candle," It is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent and represents peace. Traditionally, on Christmas Eve, the white candle is lit. This is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Jesus Christ that has come to light the world. It represents the purity of Christ, whose perfect sacrifice brings peace between God and man. For those who trust in what Christ has done, the crimson stain of sin is made white like snow (Isaiah 1:18). We are spiritually clean because he loved us. The candles on the advent wreath point to Jesus, the light of the world.