

Symbols of Advent

Advent Wreath and Candles

The Advent wreath began as a way for families to reflect on the meaning of Advent in their homes. Today, most Catholic churches use an Advent wreath during their celebration of the Advent season. The wreath is usually made of evergreen branches formed into a circle. The circle represents eternal life. The green color of the wreath represents hope. It is a symbol of our hope for salvation and eternal life that Christ won for us on the Cross.

The wreath is decorated with four candles, one for each week of Advent. One candle is lit on the Sunday at the beginning of each week of Advent. The first two candles and the fourth candle are usually purple. Purple is a color of penance. It represents sorrow for our sins. The third candle is pink. This represents rejoicing because our Savior is coming soon. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, which is called Gaudete Sunday, or Rejoice Sunday. The light from the lit candles represents Jesus, who is the Light of the World.



Advent Calendar

An Advent calendar is a way to mark each passing day of the Advent season. The Advent calendar usually has small doors or windows that are opened each day of advent. Behind each door is an image of Jesus; a small gift,

such as a toy or candy; a Scripture passage for reflection; or an activity to do for each day of Advent. One by one, the doors are opened on the calendar until Christmas Eve, when the celebration of Christmas begins.



Ornament Template

Directions: Decorate your ornament with symbols of Advent.

