

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION: THE SECOND COMING

First Sunday of Advent • Year B • December 3, 2023

God of all ages,
Advent days call us
to wait and to prepare
for the coming of your Son.

As we wait,
help us to use time well
by praying,
doing works of justice,
and sharing your peace and love
with all we meet.

Amen.



Sunday Word

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



1. Advent looks back in history and forward to our future in Christ.
2. Disciples must be alert in order to stay true to Jesus.
3. The Advent wreath reminds us that God's love for us is never-ending.

Key Teachings



Be Alert

In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples to be careful. We are to be awake and alert. It is easy to lose our way and stray from God.

Hope in God

In this world, people get hurt, people get sick, people hurt one another, and people sin. Jesus offers Redemption to this world.

Celebrate Advent

Advent celebrates the first coming of Christ in history and the Second Coming of Christ at the end of all time, when all tears and sadness will be wiped away.

Faith Words



Advent

Advent is the time the Church remembers God's promise to send us the Savior. The Church celebrates the season of Advent during the four weeks before Christmas.



Second Coming

The Second Coming is the final return of Jesus, when the Kingdom of God will be complete.

Disciple Power: Hope

When we hope, we place our trust in God. We know that God always keeps his Word. God always keeps his promises.

With My Family



We Listen

Watch out! Jesus' message is pretty clear. "Be watchful! Be alert!" We are like the servants in the Gospel and Jesus is "the Lord of the house." He has left it up to us to take care of things here on earth. So how well are we doing? Are we ready for "the Lord of the house" to return? Name three things you can do in your house (and outside your house!) to be ready for Jesus this Christmas.

We Believe

We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, really came to earth and lived among us. We also believe that he will come again at the end of time. And what we believe, we celebrate! So during Advent, we celebrate that first coming and the Second Coming of Jesus. The Advent wreath and the color purple are signs of our celebration.

We Live As Disciples

Advent is a hopeful season and a penitential season. As disciples of Jesus, we wait and hope for his coming. During Advent we try to slow down, spend time with Jesus in prayer, and do penance. A penance is something you do to show that you want to change your heart and be closer to Jesus. What penance will you do?

We Pray

Maranatha is an ancient word that means "Come, Lord Jesus." Quietly, say it over and over again as an Advent prayer.

With My Family: Purple Is for Advent



With the start of Advent, you will likely see an Advent wreath as well as splashes of purple around the church. By now, you have heard Advent described as the four-week period prior to Christmas when Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. So why the purple?

Purple is a penitential color. That means that the color is to remind us of our need to repent and change our hearts. The purple of Advent is a little different from the purple you may see during Lent. In fact, sometimes the purple we use during Advent has more of a blue undertone. This blue-purple is intended to distinguish the Advent season from the Lenten season. So what is the difference?

Both Advent and Lent have penitential themes. Lent is a longer, more intense time of spiritual recollection and penance. Advent is a more hopeful season, and our acts of penance are part of our preparation for the Lord's coming both now and at the end of time.

Thus, when we suggest that your child and your family do acts of penance, what we are suggesting is that you do something extra to help you focus more intentionally and prayerfully on the coming of the Messiah. Although you may already have an activity or reflection booklet that gives you suggestions for each day of Advent, here are some other ideas that might be a bit more penitential in nature.

- Volunteer to deliver Christmas baskets to needy families. Or volunteer to serve a meal at your local soup kitchen or work a shift at the food pantry.

- Make homemade Christmas cards and mail or deliver them to those who are homebound. The parish office will have a list of folks in your parish who are homebound. Or contact your local assisted living facility to see if you might share your cards with the residents there, particularly residents who have no family members or friends nearby.
- Attend an Advent penance service at your parish or at a nearby parish. Even though you and your children may not yet be receiving the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (those who are not baptized do not receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, meaning you do not go to confession), penitential services foster a spirit of penance.
- Use the Advent wreath as a focus of prayer before the evening meal. As you light each candle, pray "Come, Lord Jesus" (or "Maranatha"). Then bow your heads and observe thirty seconds of silence before you begin to eat.
- Make a special effort to pray before bedtime each night with your child. Use the prayer from your Young Apprentices participant page, or pray spontaneously from your heart. You may also choose to say a traditional prayer such as the Lord's Prayer or Hail Mary together.