

• **Blessing of an *Advent Wreath*** •
for use in your home



St. Clare of Assisi Parish, O'Fallon Illinois

Gather as a family by your advent wreath. Before lighting the first candle, pray this short liturgy together. Family members can be appointed as prayer leader, reader for the scripture reading, psalm, and intercessions.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

Leader: Let us praise God, who enlightens every heart,
now and for ever.

All: Amen

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

READING

Isaiah 9:1-2, 5-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as men make merry when dividing spoils.
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast and forever peaceful,
From David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice, both now and forever.

Response: Lord, make us turn to you, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, O guide of the flock of Joseph!
From your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. (*response*)

Once again, O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven, and see;
Take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted,
the son of man whom you yourself made strong. (*response*)

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name. (*response*)

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may be always ready to welcome him.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus.

- That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love, we pray to the Lord.
- That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin, we pray to the Lord.
- That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ, we pray to the Lord.
- That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus, we pray to the Lord.

Our Father...

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The first candle on the wreath is lighted.

CONCLUDING RITES

Leader: May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his
kingdom, now and for ever.

All: Amen

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*The Prayer of Blessing is repeated on each Sunday of Advent when the next
candle is lighted. It is preceded by a short scripture passage...*

Second Sunday: The light of the moon will be like that of the sun and
the light of the sun will be seven times greater. - Isaiah 30:26

Third Sunday: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! -
Zephaniah 3:14

Fourth Sunday: Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the
virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Em-
manuel. - Isaiah 7:14