



December 4, 2025



Announcements

- 1) Birth & Baptismal Certificates
 - 2) Sponsor & Saint Forms
 - a) Sponsor Speed Dating
 - 3) Faith Formation Story
 - 4) Men's Retreat: January 30 - Feb 1, 2026
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Liturgical Calendar



It's a cycle, not a timeline.

- 🌀 1. It represents the ongoing life of Christ
- 📅 2. Time in the Church is seen as sacred and cyclical
- 🌅 3. It reflects spiritual growth
- 🕊️ 4. It ties us to creation
- 🧭 5. It's visually intuitive

Advent

When: ~4 weeks before Christmas

Color: Purple (symbolizing preparation, penance), rose on the 3rd Sunday

Focus: Preparing for the coming of Christ—both His birth (first coming) and His return at the end of time.



Christmas

When: December 25 → Baptism of the Lord (mid-January)

Color: White or gold

Focus: Celebrating the Incarnation—God becoming man.

Highlights: Christmas, Holy Family, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord



Ordinary Time (Part 1)

When: From Baptism of the Lord →
Ash Wednesday

Color: Green (growth, life)

Focus: The public ministry and
teachings of Jesus: parables,
miracles, discipleship.



Lent

When: Ash Wednesday → Holy Thursday evening

Color: Purple

Focus: Conversion, repentance, self-examination, and preparation for Easter.



Paschal Triduum (Holy Week)

When: Holy Thursday → Holy Saturday

Color: Red (Palm Sunday), White (Holy Thursday), No Mass on Good Friday, Easter Vigil White

Focus: Walking with Jesus through His Passion.



Easter

When: Easter Sunday → Pentecost
(50 days)

Color: White, ending with red on
Pentecost

Focus: Joy of the Resurrection, new
life in Christ, the outpouring of the
Holy Spirit.



Ordinary Time (Part 2)

When: Monday after Pentecost →
Christ the King (late November)

Color: Green

Focus: Growing as disciples and
living out Jesus' teaching in
everyday life.



Scripture Readings

The calendar runs on a three-year cycle of Sunday readings (Year A, B, C) and a two-year cycle of weekday readings.

- **Year A: Gospel of Matthew**
- **Year B: Gospel of Mark**
- **Year C: Gospel of Luke**
- **John is weaved throughout all years.**

Advent

A season of holy longing



Why does the Church begin the liturgical year with Advent?



Our Lady of the New Advent

- Advent stands at the threshold of the liturgical year.
- The year begins by awakening desire for Christ.
- Advent teaches that our Christian life is fundamentally a journey toward the coming Lord.
- It situates the faithful as pilgrims who await God's arrival in humility and hope.

What is the meaning of Christian waiting in the spirit of Advent?



Our Lady of the New Advent

- Waiting in Advent is active vigilance, not passive inactivity.
- A “holy restlessness” for God.
- Advent re-immerses Christians in Israel’s expectation of the Messiah.

What is the meaning of Christian waiting in the spirit of Advent?



Our Lady of the New Advent

- The season emphasizes a threefold coming of Christ:
 - **In history** at Bethlehem
 - **In grace** in the soul today
 - **In glory** at the end of time
- This threefold perspective shapes the disciple to expect Christ's presence in every moment.
- Christian waiting becomes a training in watchfulness and availability to grace.

Why Is Advent a season of holy desire?



- Advent aims to rekindle desire for God, which easily wanes with distraction.
- The liturgy voices humanity's longing for salvation through texts like *Rorate caeli*.
- Advent unites the Christ's disciple personal yearning with the ancient cry of Israel.
- Holy desire prepares the soul for deeper reception of Christ.
- The season fosters desire through:
 - Silence and recollection
 - Scriptural meditation
 - Attention to the Church's prayers

Rorate Caeli

- *Rorate caeli désuper,
et nubes plúant jústum.*
- Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the
skies pour down righteousness.



How does the Advent liturgy shape the soul?

- The liturgy is the primary teacher of Advent spirituality.
- Its readings and prayers amplify the themes of longing, repentance, hope, and vigilance.
- The early weeks emphasize Christ's final coming and the need for preparedness.
- Later in Advent, the liturgy turns toward Bethlehem, highlighting:
 - The Blessed Virgin Mary
 - John the Baptist
 - God's faithful fulfillment of His promises



On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

- On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
- Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.





Why does Advent have a penitential character?

- Advent includes a penitential dimension symbolized by purple vestments and simpler liturgical forms.
- Penance as gentle, aimed at clearing space for Christ.
- It is not as severe as Lent; its tone is quiet and hopeful.



Why does Advent have a penitential character?

- Advent penance cultivates:
 - Detachment from excess
 - A purified interior life
 - Attention to spiritual needs
- Acts of restraint—less noise, fewer distractions—help the heart prepare for the Incarnation.
- Penance in Advent is motivated by love and expectancy rather than sorrow alone.

Why is Mary the model of Advent spirituality?

- Mary embodies the essence of Advent: humble, joyful expectation of Christ.
- She awaited the Lord's coming with perfect faith, making her the season's living icon.
- Key Marian attitudes for Advent include:
 - Silence receptive to God's word
 - Trust in divine action
 - Humility and willing obedience
 - Joy grounded in God's promises
- Mary is the "living sanctuary" carrying the Word.
- Advent invites us to imitate her *fiat*: the interior openness by which Christ is welcomed into the soul.



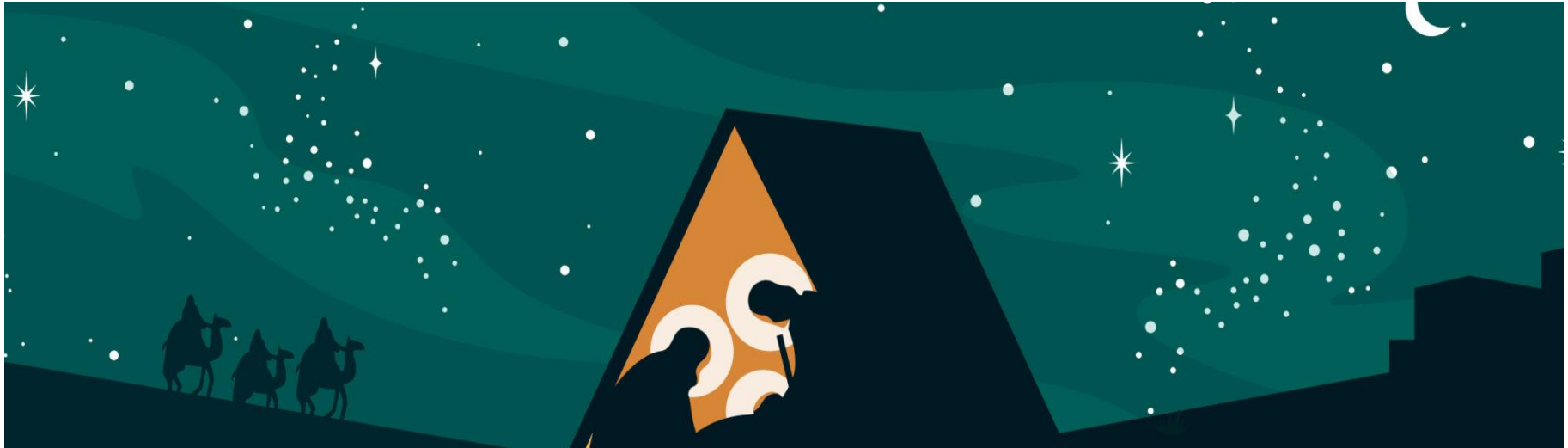


What are we really preparing for during Advent?

- Advent prepares the believer not simply for a feast but for a mystery: Christ's birth made spiritually present.
- Christmas renews the grace of the Incarnation in souls disposed to receive it.
- The season raises personal questions:
 - Where does Christ want to be born in my life?
 - What areas need cleansing or healing?
 - What attitudes block grace?

What are we really preparing for during Advent?

- Advent also prepares for Christ's final return in glory.
- Readiness for Christmas includes readiness for eternity.
- The season unites preparation for Christ's past, present, and future comings into one coherent spiritual focus.





How should we live Advent?

- Practice **vigilance**, cultivating an alert spirit through prayerfulness.
- Embrace **simplicity**, avoiding excess and unnecessary busyness.
- Engage **the liturgy**, allowing its prayers and readings to shape inner dispositions.
- Foster **hope**, trusting in God's fidelity even amid trial or delay.



How should we live Advent?

- Walk **with Mary**, imitating her attentive, trusting expectation.
- Make practical commitments such as:
 - Daily Scripture reading
 - Acts of charity
 - Intentional silence
 - Moderation in consumption
- Live Advent as a spiritual preparation rather than as a countdown to festivities.

What fruit does a well-lived advent produce?

- Renewed longing for God and heightened sensitivity to grace.
- A clearer sense of Christ's nearness in daily life.
- Spiritual readiness for the mystery of Christmas and the final coming of the Lord.
- A more Marian disposition—humble, joyful, receptive.
- A Christmas celebration rooted in spiritual transformation, not merely emotion.
- Stronger union with Christ, who desires to dwell more fully in the prepared heart



Sources

"Liturgical Year", by Dom Prosper Gueranger.





Five steps for a good Confession

1. Examination of Conscience

Take time before confession to review your life honestly since your last confession. Reflect on thoughts, words, actions, and omissions. You may use the Commandments as a guide.

2. Sorrow for Sin (Contrition)

A good confession requires true sorrow for having offended God. This doesn't mean strong emotions—just a sincere recognition that sin harms your relationship with Him and a desire to turn back.



Five steps for a good Confession

3. Firm Purpose of Amendment

Resolve, with God's grace, to avoid sin in the future. Even if you struggle with certain habits, the key is a genuine intention to change and avoid the near occasions of sin.

4. Confession of Sins

Tell your sins simply and honestly to the priest. State mortal or grave sins clearly. The priest may offer counsel and will assign a penance.



Five steps for a good Confession

5. Penance (Satisfaction)

Complete the penance given. It expresses your desire to repair harm and cooperate with God's healing grace.

Small Group Questions



- Advent places us between Christ's first coming in Bethlehem and His future coming in glory. How does living within these comings shape your faith and daily outlook?
- Where in your life do you experience a genuine longing for God to act, heal, or guide?
- The Church encourages mild penance during Advent as a way of preparing room for Christ. How can small practices—such as simplicity, silence, or intentional acts of charity—help you become more spiritually attentive? Which practices feel achievable for you this year?
- Mary offers a model of expectant faith, quiet openness, and trust. What aspects of her example challenge or inspire you? How might her “yes” influence your approach to Advent this time?
- What concrete steps could you take to welcome Christ more intentionally in the weeks ahead?



**Happy
Birthday
Debbie**



**St. Catherine of
Alexandria**



Closing Prayer

