

Getting Ready for Sunday!



This is the first week of Advent.

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas.

The colour purple/violet is a sign that we are preparing ourselves for a great celebration.



Happy New Year!

The first Sunday of Advent marks the New Year in the Church.

We begin a new year by traveling anew through the lifespan of Jesus.

Each year we travel with Jesus in a new way. We grow physically and we also grow spiritually so our experience will be fresh and different!

Look with new eyes and listen with new ears!

Advent Wreath



Look at the Advent wreath in the Church!

It is a circle of green evergreen leaves with four candles:

(i) the evergreen leaves are a sign of the everlasting love for each one of us

(ii) the circle is a sign that God is without beginning or end and that He shares the gift of eternity with us.

(iii) The four candles mark the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.

(iv) the purple candles are a sign that we are willing to change so that we may become more loving

(v) the pink candle is a sign that we will prepare in a joyfully way.

Would you like to make an Advent wreath for your home?

Materials:

- **A round tray or a plate.**
- **Four candles.**
- **Candle sticks or oasis**
- **Purple and pink ribbon.**
- **Evergreen leaves (holly, ivy, etc.)**

It can be difficult to find purple candles – you could use white candles and tie purple ribbon on three and pink ribbon on one.

Light the first purple candle during the first week of Advent and give thanks to God for the many gifts He has given you and your family.

New Year: New Gospel!

Last year we heard God's Word spoken to us from the Gospel of St Luke.

This year we will hear God's Word from the Gospel of St Matthew on most Sundays during the year.

We will hear from the Gospel of St John on some Sundays, as we do each year.

The Gospels of St Matthew, St Mark and St Luke are called the synoptic Gospels. The word synoptic means the same. Many of the same stories are told in all three of the synoptic Gospels so we get a different perspective each year. There are three synoptic Gospels – there are three years in the Church cycle.

Year A: Gospel of St Matthew

Year B: Gospel of St Mark

Year C: Gospel of St Matthew (this year's Gospel)

The First Sunday of Advent

Matthew 24:37-44



For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

The people in Noah's time didn't look at the warnings given that a storm was near! They didn't look at the clouds in the sky or the direction of the wind! They were not ready for the great rains and many drowned!

God is giving us many signs that He is near to us! Can you see them?
God is present in those who are hungry, lonely, suffering...
God is present in the beauty of His created people and world.....
Are you aware of God's presence with you now?



Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

**Each day is a precious gift!
Live each day as if it is your
last!**



Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

**Jesus may be found in unexpected
places and people!
You will meet Him in those who
love, help, care....**



But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.



**Try not to miss a chance to do good!
It may be too late tomorrow!**



Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

**We have four weeks to
prepare our hearts to
welcome Jesus at Christmas!
We need to make our hearts
places where love lives and
is welcome!**

**How are you going to do this
today?**





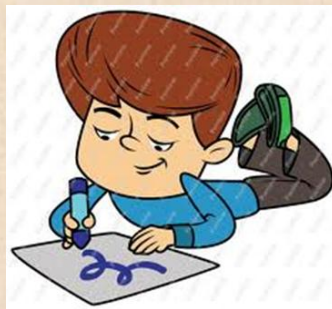
First Sunday of Advent

The new church year has begun today!

Advent gives us a chance to make a brand new start as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jesus wants space in our hearts because He loves us so much.

We make space in our hearts by becoming more loving and willing to do everything God asks of us.

How can you become more loving this week?



Draw a picture of what you plan on doing and bring it to Mass with you.

Bible Search

Read **Matthew 24:37-44** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Consider



What change do you need to make in yourself to try to become a more loving person?

Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to always be ready to meet Jesus and to recognise Him!

