



In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His second coming at the end of time.

Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily. We can better enjoy Christmas—all 12 days of it, from Christmas Day to Epiphany—if we revive Advent as a period of preparation. Abstaining from meat on Fridays, or not eating at all between meals, is a good way to revive the Advent fast. (Not eating Christmas cookies or listening to Christmas music before Christmas is another.) We can incorporate such customs as the Advent wreath, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena, and the Jesse Tree into our daily ritual, and we can set some time aside for special scripture readings for Advent, which remind us of the threefold coming of Christ. Holding off on putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations is another way to remind ourselves that the feast is not here yet. Traditionally, such decorations were put up on Christmas Eve, but they would not be taken down until after Epiphany, in order to celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest.

RECONCILIATION DURING ADDVENT:

Saturday's 3:30pm at St. Joseph-Olney, Sunday,
Sunday, December 2, 2:00pm (First Reconciliation/Advent Reconciliation) at St. Joseph-Olney.
Sunday, December 9, 3:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin, Sunday,
Sunday, December 16, 1:00pm at St. Joseph-Stringtown,
Monday, December 17, 6:00pm at St. Sebastian at St. Sebastian and 7:00pm at St. Mary-Mt.Carmel
Thursday, December 20 at 6:00pm at St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville.

ADVENT EVENSONG:

Sunday, December 9, 4:00pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 12, 6:30pm at Holy Cross-Wendelin

CHRISTMAS EVE, Monday, December 24, MASS

4:00PM at St. Joseph-Olney (with the school children)

9:30PM at Holy Cross-Wendelin (the choir will begin at 8:45PM with a Christmas Cantata)

11:30PM at St. Joseph-Olney (the choir will begin at 11:00PM with a selection of Christmas hymns.)

CHRISTMAS DAY, Tuesday, December 25, MASS

8:30AM at St. Joseph-Stringtown (the choir will begin at 8:00am with Christmas hymns)

10:30AM at Holy Cross-Wendelin (the choir will repeat it's Christmas Cantata, beginning at 9:45AM.)