Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Advent History --

Advent -- from the Latin word, adventus, meaning Coming. Advent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, the incarnate love of God and the second coming of Jesus, the redeemer and judge.

Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30th -- the feast of St. Andrew. Andrew was the brother of Peter who introduced Peter to Jesus saying, "We have found the Messiah." John 1:41

Advent Wreath

- Circular shape and evergreen branches to symbolize everlasting eternal life in heaven with our Lord.

- The 4 candles on the Advent wreath symbolize a different aspect of the coming Savior. Each of the candles represent 1,000 years. Added together they make up 4,000 years -- the 4,000 years humanity waited for a Savior -- from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament. Many Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white "Christ" candle, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The Colors of Advent

- Purple -- signifies a time of waiting, penance, and sacrifice, prayer and preparation. Purple also signifies royalty, Jesus, the King of Kings, is coming.

- Rose (Pink) -- signifies joy. Lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete (gow-day-tay), which means rejoice, Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice.
  - The third Sunday is also considered "Joy" Sunday because those celebrating the Advent season have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.
First Sunday of Advent -- December 3, 2017

- It is the Prophets Candle which symbolizes **HOPE**
  - The prophets foretold of the Coming Savior
  - We light a purple candle

Second Sunday of Advent -- December 10, 2017

- It is the Bethlehem Candle which symbolizes **FAITH & LOVE**
  - Mary says yes to the Angel Gabriel
  - We light a purple candle

Third Sunday of Advent -- December 17, 2017

- It is the Shepherds Candle which symbolizes **JOY**
  - The Shepherds were the first to be told of the Savior. They are gatherers. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
  - We light a Rose (Pink) candle

Fourth Sunday of Advent -- December 24, 2017

- It is the Angels Candle which symbolizes **PEACE**
  - The Angels' message of Peace -- Fear Not!
Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is a season of preparation. Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” During these busy weeks we prepare to celebrate the Savior who came to us in Bethlehem. We also look forward to welcoming our Savior at his Second Advent, the day he returns in glory as our King!

Matthew’s gospel tells the story of the wise men. Luke’s gospel presents Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and the Child in the manger. John’s gospel tells us of Jesus, the Light of the world, the Word made flesh. Mark’s gospel begins with an Advent message: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” (Mark 1:3).