

Advent Wreath Devotions

Blessing of the Wreath – should take place on the Saturday evening before the first Sunday of Advent. Before the evening meal the father or, in his absence, the head of the household, performs the blessing in the presence of the entire family. The follow prayers are suggested:

Father: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who hath made heaven and earth.

Father: Let us pray. O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

He then sprinkles the wreath with holy water.

The following prayers are said throughout each week before the evening meal each day.

The first week

Father: O Lord, stir up Thy power, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and be saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

One purple candle is then lit by the youngest child and left burning during the evening meal.

The second week

Father: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare the ways of Thine only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with purified minds. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Two purple candles are lit by the oldest child during this week.

The third week

Father: O Lord, we beseech Thee, incline Thine ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

One rose and two purple candles are lit by the mother during this week.

The fourth week

Father: O Lord, we beseech Thee, stir up Thy power and come; and with great might deliver us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

All four candles are lit by the father during this week.