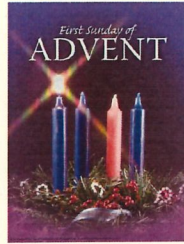
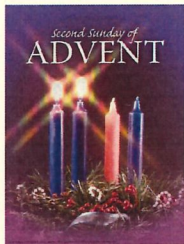


The First Week of Advent
One candle is lit.



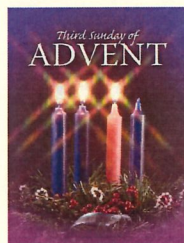
Leader: Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when he comes. We pray in Jesus' name.
All: Amen.

The Second Week of Advent
Two candles are lit.



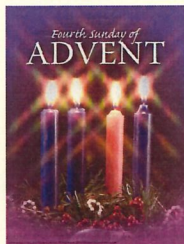
Leader: Father in heaven, set our hearts ablaze to follow in the steps of John the Baptist. May we bring light and love to all we meet, that the darkness of sin and fear may be overcome. In Christ's name we ask this.
All: Amen.

The Third Week of Advent
Three candles are lit.



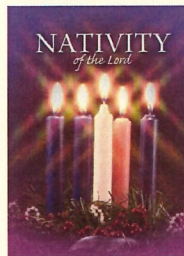
Leader: As we draw near to you, Lord God, keep us aware of your presence in all we do. Come with power to enlighten us by your grace, that we may live in praise and peace all our days. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

The Fourth Week of Advent
Four candles are lit.



Leader: Lord Jesus, we approach that holy moment when Your coming as man is renewed in our hearts. Give us peace and allow us to celebrate Your presence with joy, that we may some day share Your glory. We ask this of You, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as One God, now and forever.
All: Amen.

The Christmas Season



Leader: Father in heaven, you so loved us that You sent Your Son, among us as Savior and Lord. Fill us with Your blessing, that we may grow in love and continue to live our Christian faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

*Blessing
of the
Christmas Tree*

Before Christianity came to be, trees that remained green all year round warded off evil spirits and were special to people during the winter. It wasn't until the sixteenth century in Germany that trees were brought inside and decorated.

You may bless the tree as soon as you put it up, or you can wait until after you have decorated it. When you are ready to do the blessing, gather everyone around the tree and designate someone to lead the following prayer.

You will need water or holy water (if available) to celebrate this blessing.

Leader: Loving God, we stand before you once again. We stand here ready to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus.

(Have everyone extend a hand in a gesture of blessing. Sprinkle water or holy water on the tree while praying the following prayer.)

Leader: Bless this tree, this sign of life and freshness and perseverance in our midst. It stands as a reminder that you are born anew in us each day. Bless our family and friends as we celebrate this joyous season. Keep us safe in our travels, kind in our conversations, and gracious in our giving and receiving. We ask you this in confidence, because we know you love us.

All: Amen.

(Join in singing a favorite Christmas carol, such as "O Christmas Tree" or "Joy to the World.")

*Adapted from
loyolapress.com*



*Blessing
of the
Advent Wreath*

All make the sign of the cross.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
Response: Who made heaven and earth.

Reader: Isaiah 9: 1-2, 5-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shown. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest, as they exult when dividing the spoils. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he conforms and sustains by judgement and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Response: Thanks be to God.

All present join hands.

Leader: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Conclude with a verse from
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Adapted from USCCB.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 28 1 st Sunday Advent Blessing of Advent Wreath Masses at 9:30 am, Noon, 5:30 pm RCIA Rite of Dismissal Blessing for Home Advent Wreath Light 1 candle History Center open 10:30 am—2 pm	Nov 29 Daily Mass at Noon <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Stump with Branch</i> Isaiah 11:1-2 <i>The Jesse Tree</i> Habbakuk & the Watch Tower Habbakuk 2: 1-4	Nov 30 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle <i>The Jesse Tree</i> Habbakuk & the Watch Tower Habbakuk 2: 1-4	Dec 1 Daily Mass at Noon With St. Joseph Rosary and Holy Hour <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Creation of Humans</i> Genesis 1: 26-31	Dec 2 Daily Mass at Noon <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>The Fall</i> Genesis 3	Dec 3 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Priest <i>The Jesse Tree</i> Noah's Ark Genesis 6: 11-14, 7:17, 8:3; 9: 8-13	Dec 4 9 am First Saturday Mass, Confessions, Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima Advent Retreat, 10 am—2 pm Live and Zoom Mass at 5:30 pm
Dec 5 2 nd Sunday of Advent Masses at 9:30 am, Noon, 5:30 pm RCIA Rite of Dismissal Home Advent Wreath Light 2 Candles Visit from St. Nicholas after 9:30 and Noon Masses Advent Family Gift Wrap after 9:30 Mass History Center open 10:30 am—2 pm	Dec 6 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>The Promised Land</i> Genesis 12: 1-7	Dec 7 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. Ambrose, Bishop <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>God's Promise to Abraham</i> Genesis 15: 1-6	Dec 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation Mass at Noon & 5:30 pm <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Abraham sacrifices Isaac</i> Genesis 22:1-14	Dec 9 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. Juan Diego <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Jacob's Dream</i> Genesis 28:10-22	Dec 10 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of Our Lady of Loretto Advent Lessons and Carols at 7:30 pm <i>The Jesse Tree - Joseph's Coat of Many Colors</i> Genesis 37:1-36	Dec 11 Precious Helpers of God's Little Ones Mass at 7 am Blessing of the Child in the Womb by Archbishop Kurtz at 5:30 pm Mass Blessing of Infant Jesus from home nativity set in honor of Bambinelli Sunday
Dec 12 3 rd Sunday of Advent Masses at 9:30 am, Noon, 5:30 pm Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance Home Advent Wreath Light 3 Candles Blessing of Infant Jesus from home nativity set in honor of Bambinelli Sunday History Center Closed	Dec 13 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. Lucy, Virgin Martyr <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>The 10 Commandments</i> Deuteronomy 5: 1-22	Dec 14 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. John of the Cross <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Rahab</i> Joshua 2: 1-21	Dec 15 Daily Mass at Noon <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Ruth and Boaz</i> Ruth 2: 1-4, 12	Dec 16 Daily Mass at Noon <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>God chooses David to be king</i> 1 Samuel 16: 1-15	Dec 17 Daily Mass at Noon <i>"O" Antiphons begin</i> <i>"O Wisdom"</i> <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Prophecy of a Savior born in Bethlehem</i> Micah 5: 1-5	Dec 18 Mass at 5:30 pm <i>"O" Antiphon</i> <i>"O Leader of the House of Israel"</i>
Dec 19 4 th Sunday of Advent Masses at 9:30 am, Noon, 5:30 pm Home Advent Wreath Light 4 Candles Bless the Family Christmas Tree History Center open 10:30 am—2 pm	Dec 20 Daily Mass at Noon <i>"O" Antiphon</i> <i>"O Key of David"</i> <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>John the Baptist</i> Matthew 3: 1-6	Dec 21 Daily Mass at Noon <i>"O" Antiphon</i> <i>"O Radiant Dawn"</i> <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>God chooses Mary</i> Luke 1: 26-38	Dec 22 Daily Mass at Noon <i>"O" Antiphon</i> <i>"O King of All Nations"</i> <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Angel Appears to Joseph</i> Matthew 1: 18-25	Dec 23 Daily Mass at Noon <i>"O" Antiphon</i> <i>"O Emmanuel"</i> <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Mary & Joseph go to Bethlehem</i>	Dec 24 Christmas Eve No Noon Mass Masses at 5:30 pm and Midnight—Music begins half hour before both Masses <i>The Jesse Tree</i> <i>Jesus is Born</i> Luke 2: 6-21	Dec 25 Th Nativity of the Lord Masses at 9:30am and Noon No 5:30 pm Mass
Dec 26 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Masses at 9:30 am & Noon History Center Closed No 5:30 pm Mass	Dec 27 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist	Dec 28 Daily Mass at Noon Feast of the Holy Innocents	Dec 29 Daily Mass at Noon	Dec 30 Daily Mass at Noon	Dec 31 No Mass Today	Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9 am First Saturday Mass, Confessions, Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima Mass at Noon No 5: 30 pm Mass

Jesse Tree



In the Advent days before Christmas, the Church anticipates the coming of Jesus through readings that span from the Old Testament creation story through Jesus' birth. Jesse, for whom the tree is named, is the first person in the genealogy of Jesus. The symbols and readings above are part of the story. We will have a Jesse Tree in church for our weekday Masses.

The image and information come from the Diocese of Erie, <http://www.sittiresechesya.org/jesstreechristmas.html>.

The images in the calendar come from faithforward.org

"O" Antiphons

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. A copy of them will be in the December 12 bulletin and December 10 online newsletter so you may pray them at your evening meal or before you go to bed.

