

ADVENT WREATH

THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS



ORIGINS

The first missionaries in Europe took advantage of the pagan traditions to evangelize. One of them consisted of lighting candles during the winter, which represented the sun god.

CIRCULAR SHAPE



It represents God's eternal love for us and also speaks of our own love towards the Lord and others, which needs to be renewed constantly.



THE ADVENT WREATH



THE BRANCHES

Green is the color of hope and life. Our biggest hope should be to achieve a closer union with God as the tree and its branches.

THE CANDLES



The four candles of the wreath are lit each Sunday of Advent. They represent the dissipation of darkness as we approach the birth of the Lord.

INFORMATION FROM ACIPRENSA.COM




ALL ABOUT THE *Advent Wreath*



Usually made up of evergreen branches or boughs placed in a circle, topped with four candles

Used as a prayerful way to reflect the passage of the Advent season

The wreath is blessed and one candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent; another candle is lit every Sunday until all four candles are burning brightly

The **EVERGREENS** remind us of the everlasting life promised to us by the gift of Jesus Christ, who came among us to save us from sin and death

PURPLE CANDLES symbolize our waiting, hoping, longing expectation for the arrival of Christ

A **PINK CANDLE** for the third Sunday reminds us that the time of Christ's arrival is fast approaching and we must prepare

The act of **LIGHTING THE CANDLES** banishes the darkness: a reminder of Jesus Christ, the Light who has come into the world through his birth, and who continues to shine brightly through his Church

O God, as light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way. May Christ our Saviour bring life into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen.




Archdiocese of Toronto

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