

Advent

1. With the new liturgical year, we begin the use of the next cycle of readings for both Sundays and weekdays.
2. The color of Advent is a bluer shade of violet, to distinguish it from the purple of penitence in Lent. Blue is not an allowed color in the U.S. Rose is an optional color for the vesture on the Third Sunday of Advent, signaling that the full joy of Christmas is drawing near. The vestments worn should not have a cross, nails, etc. on them – they should not be Lenten.
3. The Advent wreath is blessed only at the first mass, after the intercessions. See the Book of Blessings, #1509ff, chapter 47. On the other Sundays of Advent, it is lit before Mass begins and no additional prayers are said. The traditional wreath is a circle of evergreen branches that bears four candles. The dominant tradition calls for three violet and one rose candle, but four violet or four white candles may also be used. Some communities add a fifth candle, white, for Christmas. The wreath should be large enough for all to see, but not obstruct the view of the altar, ambo or chair.
4. A good Penitential Act to use would be the third form, # I (now found in Appendix VI of the Missal)
5. Don't anticipate Christmas with music and environment. Rather, make use of a full spectrum of Advent music.
6. Don't make believe Jesus never came – focus on the second coming. Remember: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*
7. Giving trees should not be in the sanctuary. Remember you can transform them for Christmas. They are better placed in the entryway or some location other than the sanctuary, lest the simplicity of Advent decor be compromised. Likewise, while Jesse trees are good for religious education they should not be in the church.
8. The *Gloria* is omitted.
9. This season should reflect quiet and a subdued peace, as well as a sense of anticipation.
10. Remember that Advent and Christmas are the perfect times to remember Mary, our ultimate model for discipleship. The following Marian feasts and solemnities are observed during the Advent:
 - a. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed on December 12
 - b. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, is a Holy Day of obligation. Ritual Masses and Funeral Masses may not be celebrated.