

# **ADVENT**

**BEGINS--- GET READY!**

**29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**

**Lectionary Year B.**

**Mark 13: 24-37**

In today's Scripture readings, Jesus is telling his disciples to be ready and prepared, to be alert and awake. Jesus meant these words also for us.

And the reason we are reading that scripture passage today is because today is the first Sunday of a new church year! The church year starts with some built-in-preparation time, in which we call Advent.

Some of the things that we can prepare for the new church year is by reading and talking about stories that remind us of what Jesus 'life and ministry are meant to do.

We also get ready to celebrate Jesus's birthday on Christmas day, in December.

As we do all these things, then we are better prepared to hear and respond to Jesus's message

of good news and new life. That God's better way is available today, right now, for us to live.

That's the good news for today.

### CLOSING PRAYER

[Dear parents/guardians please share the following prayer with your children.]

This a repeat after me prayer.

Dear God,

Dear God,

Please help us to get ready...

Please help us to get ready...

For Jesus's life and teachings...

For Jesus's life and teachings...

So that we can learn and live...

So that we can learn and live...

Your better way...

Your better way.

AMEN.



## ADVENT WREATH.

Today we begin a time of preparation and waiting, for a joyful celebration, of the birthday of Our Lord Jesus Christ, on Christmas day. We call this time of waiting the season of Advent. The word 'Advent' means 'coming'. We ask Jesus to come and fill our lives with His love. To begin this time of Advent, we notice in the church the Advent Wreath . The wreath is made of five candles in a circle of evergreens. The evergreens reminds us of everlasting life Jesus gives us and God's never ending love for us. Evergreen leaves do not die the way other leaves do. There are three violet candles, one rose, and one white. There is one candle for each of the four Sundays before Christmas, and each week one candle is lighted.

The violet candles are lighted on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent, signifying to be sad for our sins [confession], to pray, and to give up some treats [fasting], the rose candle is lighted on the third Sunday of Advent, on this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is nearly over. And the white candle is lighted on Christmas day, to signify that Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is always close to us, taking care of us, we don't need to be afraid.

Focusing on the colours of Advent in the weeks leading to Christmas is a great way for families to keep Christ the centre of Christmas.

## **PRAYER PLACE.**

**Dear parents/guardians, please share the following activity with your children.]**

Place a purple cloth on a table, with an Advent wreath, you can purchase flameless Advent candles, for safety reasons.

Each day at home after meal time, starting from the first Sunday of Advent, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020, one violet candle is lighted for the first week, and then another each succeeding week until the 25<sup>th</sup> December. The rose candle is lighted on the third Sunday of Advent. Remember it's the candle of Joy, getting closer to the birthday of

Jesus, so share a special meal as a family. The white candle is lighted on Christmas day, the birthday of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **DAILY PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH.**

**FIRST WEEK:** [ **VIOLET CANDLE**] Jesus fill our hearts with your presence and your love, as we prepare for your coming. Help us to make other people happy.

**SECOND WEEK:** [ **VIOLET CANDLE**] [ And light two violet candles] Jesus, help us to prepare our hearts for your coming by acts of kindness and love. Help us to share with others the good news that you are near.

**THIRD WEEK:** [ **ROSE CANDLE**] [ And two violet candles] ‘**Gaudete Sunday**’ which means ‘**REJOICE**’ Jesus you are our joy, help us to spread your joy. Fill the lives of everyone with hope and joy for your coming.

**FOURTH WEEK:** [ **VIOLET CANDLE**] [ Light all candles, except white one] Jesus help us to say yes always to God, like Mary did. Help us to be obedient to God by obeying our parents. Help us to prepare well for your coming.

**CHRISTMAS: [ WHITE CANDLE]** Jesus our hearts are filled with joy and peace on this special day, as we celebrate your birthday. Help us to make your love real in the world today. Help us to spread the Christmas gifts of kindness, helpfulness, forgiveness, and sharing.

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### **ADVENT PRAYER.**

**O LORD, THANK YOU FOR NOT LEAVING US IN DARKNESS, BUT FOR SENDING YOUR LIGHT INTO THE WORLD. HELP US TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT IN THE WORLD. MAY YOUR LOVE RADIATE FROM US AND GIVE JOY TO THOSE IN SADNESS. HELP US TO TRUST IN YOU AS WE WAIT FOR YOU TO COME AGAIN.**

**WE LOVE YOU. AMEN.**



**ADVENT COLOURING PAGE.**

