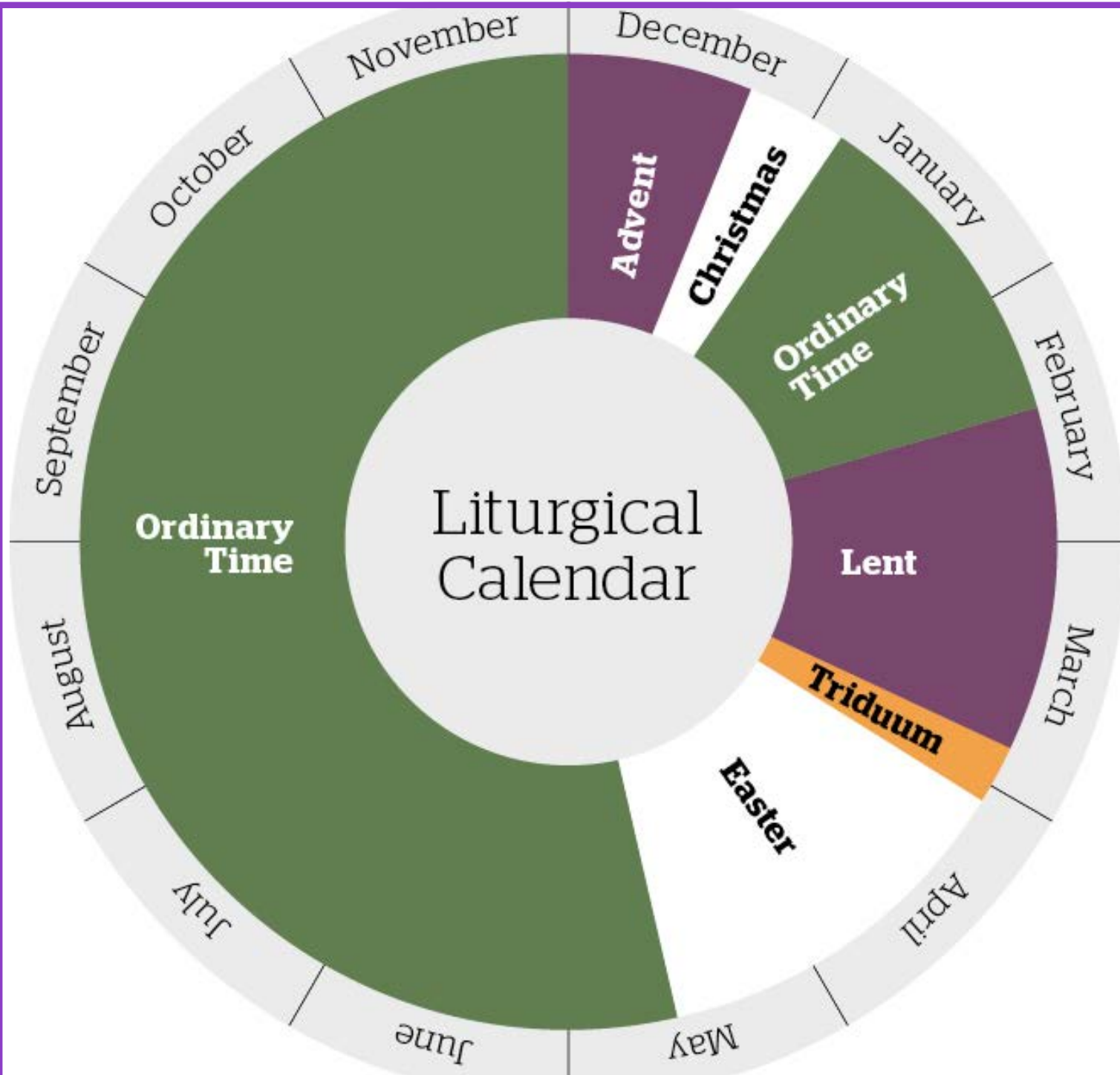


Journey Through Advent



Liturgical Calendar



Adventus

Coming or Arrival

“Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for Him!”

— Pope Francis



During Advent, we share in...



Israel's Long Wait for Messiah



Mary's Waiting for the Birth of the Christ Child



The Church's Awaiting the Parousia

Themes of Advent

Hope

Jesus is the light of the Word

Themes of Advent

Preparation

We are called to examine our hearts and prepare spiritually

Themes of Advent

Joy & Peace

**Anticipation builds for the
arrival of the Prince of Peace**



Advent is given to us as a time to ready our souls for the coming of the Lord. This season is similar to Lent as we prepare for Easter.

In Advent we prepare ourselves to receive Christ at Christmas.



Advent is the beginning of a new Liturgical year for the Church.

The Church celebrates its “New Year’s Day.” The date this year is December 1st, the Sunday closes to the feast day of Saint Andrew the Apostle (Nov 30).

HOPE

Week 1

Candle Name: Prophet's Candle

Candle Symbolizes: Hope

Reminds Us: Jesus is coming

Verse: Romans 15:12-13

Prayer: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

Christ Candle
Light on Christmas Eve



Verse: John 1:29

PEACE

Week 4

Candle Name: Angel's Candle

Candle Symbolizes: Peace

Reminds us: The message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Verse: John 3:16-17

Prayer: O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

FAITH

Week 2

Candle Name: Bethlehem Candle

Candle Symbolizes: Faith

Reminds Us: Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

Verse: Luke 3:4-6

Prayer: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

Week 3

Candle Name: Shepherd's Candle

Candle Symbolizes: Joy

Reminds Us: The Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus

Verse: Luke 2:7-15


Prayer: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

JOY

Originally Advent was celebrated over 40 days, just like the Lenten season. It is shortened to four weeks but the symbolism remains.

Like Lent we do not sing the song of the angels—the Gloria. We will sing this song anew with the angels on Christmas Day—just as they did over 2,000 years ago.





The Scripture readings during Mass remind us of all the prophecies that point to the Lord's coming.

We are called to keep watch and to leave behind our sinful ways. We also hear the recurring theme of a light shining through darkness.

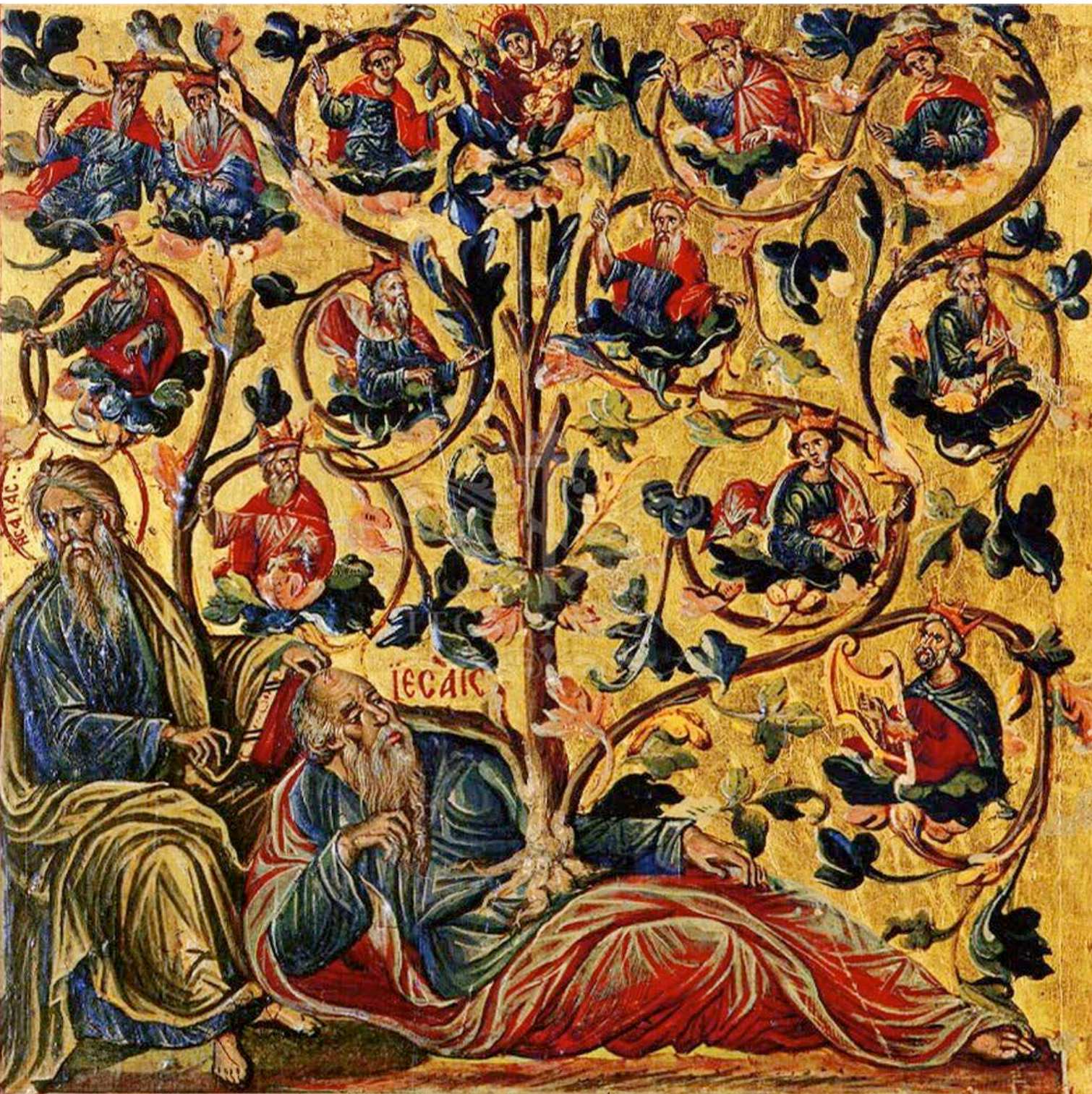
Colors & Symbols





Advent Wreath

A circle, symbolizing God's eternal and unending nature, adorned with evergreen branches that represent everlasting life. Each candle on the wreath marks a week of Advent.



Jesse Tree

Stories and symbols representing the family line of Jesus, key biblical figures, or other events from salvation history.



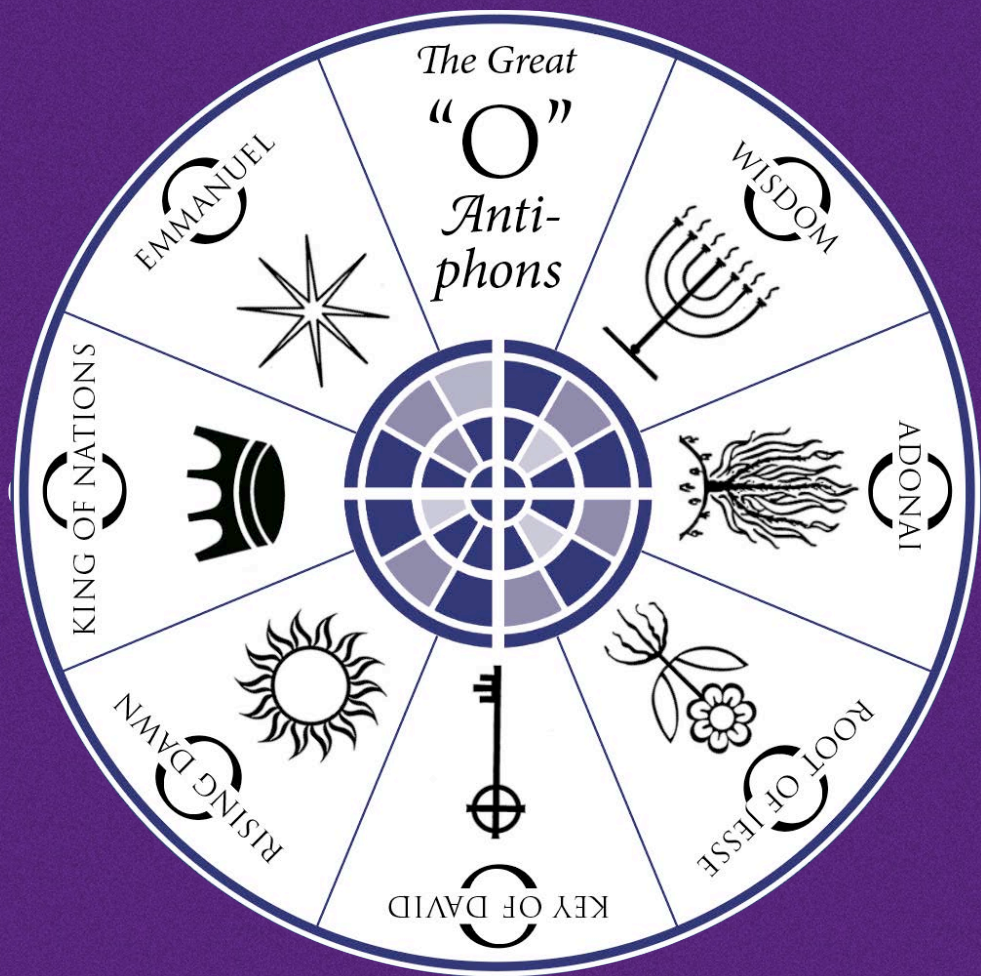
Advent Calendar

Used for daily
scripture or prayers,
helping us focus daily
on Christ's coming.

Prayers & Devotions



The O Antiphons



- The Magnificat antiphons recited/chanted during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours.
- These seven antiphons are recited/chanted from December 17-23.
- Date to 6th century in Italy, when Boethius refers to the text in *The Consolation of Philosophy*.
- The texts are best known in the form of the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

December 17th



Wisdom

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Isaiah 11: 2-3



December 18th



Lord

O Lord, and ruler of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the
burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Isaiah 33: 22



December 19th



Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.



Isaiah 11: 1

December 20th



Key of David

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah 9: 7



December 21st



Radiant Dawn

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of light eternal
and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in
darkness and the shadow of death.



Isaiah 9: 2

December 22nd



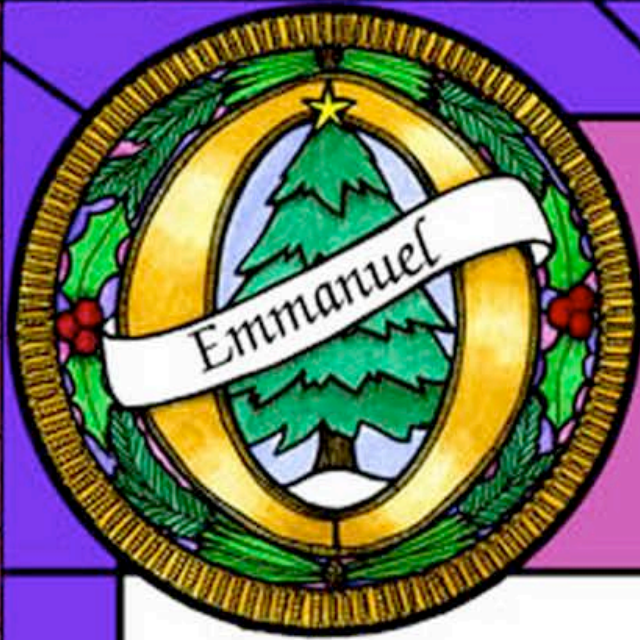
King of Nations

O King of the nations, and their desire, the
cornerstone making both one: Come and
save the human race, which you fashioned
from clay.

Isaiah 2:4



December 23rd



Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Isaiah 7: 14



- “Dear Heavenly Father” prayer
- Blessing of a Christmas Tree
- St. Andrew Christmas Novena/Christmas Anticipation Prayer

Christmas Anticipation Prayer



HAIL AND BLESSED be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayers and grant my desires, through the merits of Jesus Christ and His most holy Mother. Amen.

Beginning on the feast of St. Andrew, November 30, the following prayer is traditionally recited 15 times a day until Christmas.

A decorative arrangement of lit candles and autumn flowers. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the numerous lit candles. The candles are tall and thin, with some showing signs of being used. They are interspersed with a variety of autumn flowers, including yellow and orange chrysanthemums, red and orange roses, and smaller white and yellow blossoms. The overall atmosphere is warm and festive, typical of a religious or seasonal celebration.

Feasts & Holy Days

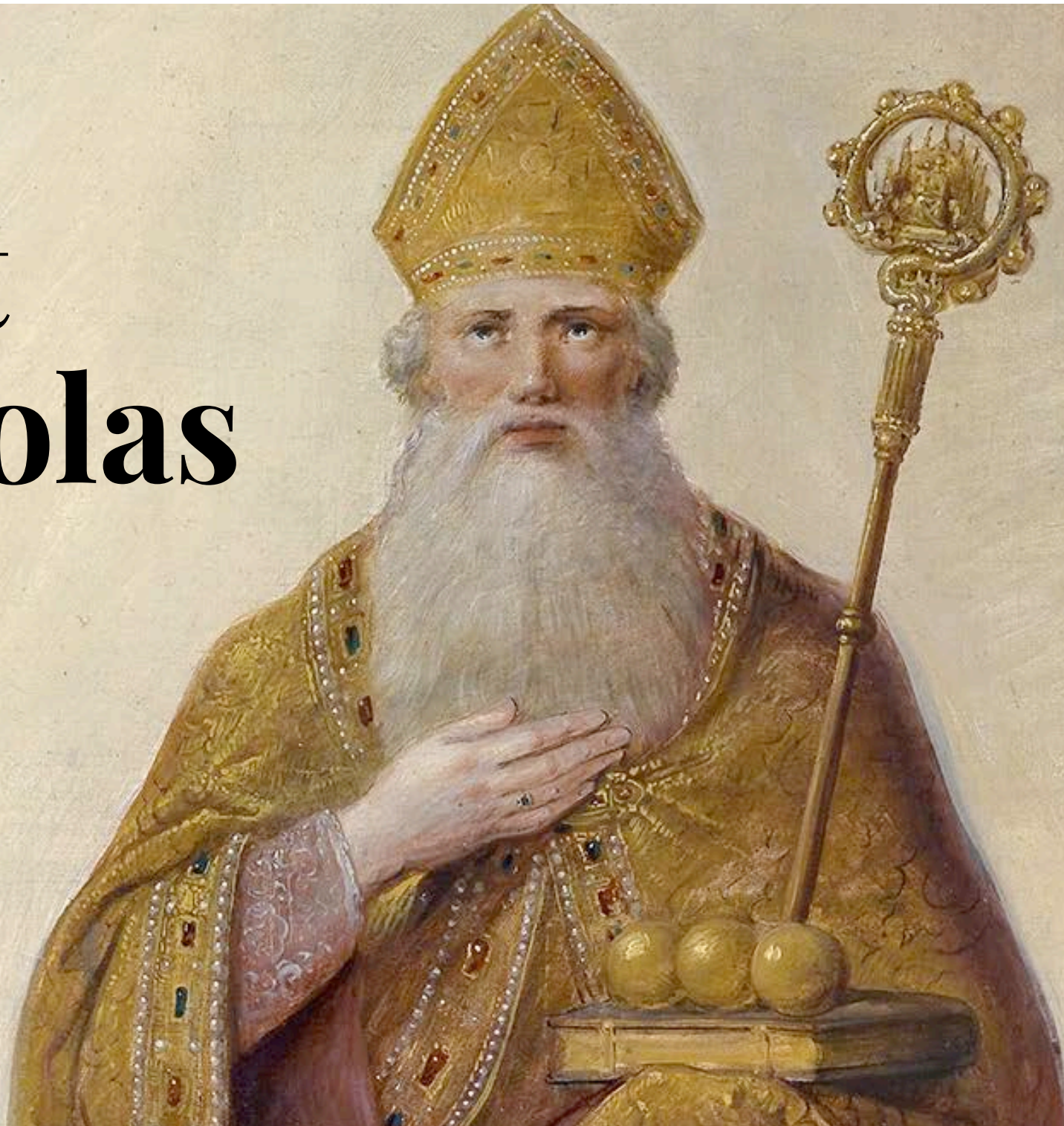
A detailed portrait of Saint Andrew, an elderly man with a full, curly brown beard and hair. He is wearing a red garment draped over his shoulders. The background is dark and textured. The text "Saint Andrew" is overlaid in white serif font on the right side of the image.

Saint Andrew

Stir It Up Sunday



Saint Nicholas



A detailed oil painting of Saint Ambrose, a prominent figure in the Western Christian Church. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a tall, golden mitre and a blue and gold patterned cope over a dark blue robe. He has a long, full, grey beard and is looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression. His right hand is resting on an open book. The background is dark and indistinct.

Saint Ambrose

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary





Saint Juan Diego & Our Lady of Guadalupe



Our Lady of Loreto

Saint Lucy



Saint John of the Cross



Christmas Eve



Christmas



The Liturgical season of Christmas begins at the first Mass celebrated on Christmas Eve and it concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 9.



- **Christmas Day** - At-home Nativity play
- **St. Stephen (12/26)** - Read Acts of the Apostles ch 6 & 7
- **Feast of the Holy Family (12/26)** - Consecration of the Holy Family
- **St. John (12/27)** - The Love of St. John, enjoy your favorite fried foods
- **Holy Innocents (12/28)** - Listen to the Coventry Carol, pray for our children, eat-like-a-kid day, play games, honor our altar servers
- **New Years Eve** - Pray (or sing) the Te Deum

- **Mary, Mother of God (1/1)** - Pray (or sing) the Veni Creator Spiritus
- **Epiphany of the Lord (1/2)** - Blessing of the home, bake a king cake
- **Most Holy Name of Jesus (1/3)** - Pray the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus
- **Baptism of the Lord (1/9)** - Renewal baptism promises, honor your Godparents



Candlemas

Helpful Tips

- **Daily Family Prayer:** Set aside time to read the Nativity story or say the O Antiphons together.
- **Charitable Actions:** Embrace giving to those in need, reflecting Christ's love.
- **Incorporate Silence:** Embrace moments of silence and contemplation, keeping the focus on Christ over holiday distractions.
- **Personal Devotions:** Include personal prayer, adoration, and spiritual reading. Let your children see your commitment to seeking God.
- **Be Realistic:** Choose activities that resonate with you—your enthusiasm will inspire others.

- **Don't Aim for Perfection:** God values your effort above the results; if you miss a day, simply pick up from where you are.
- **Stay Patient:** Don't give up too easily, but don't force what isn't connecting.
- **Adapt for Your Family:** Tailor activities to your children's attention spans and personalities, recognizing that each family member engages with faith in their own way.
- **Be God's Hands and Voice:** God pursues each of our souls, and He counts on you to reach others with love and encouragement.

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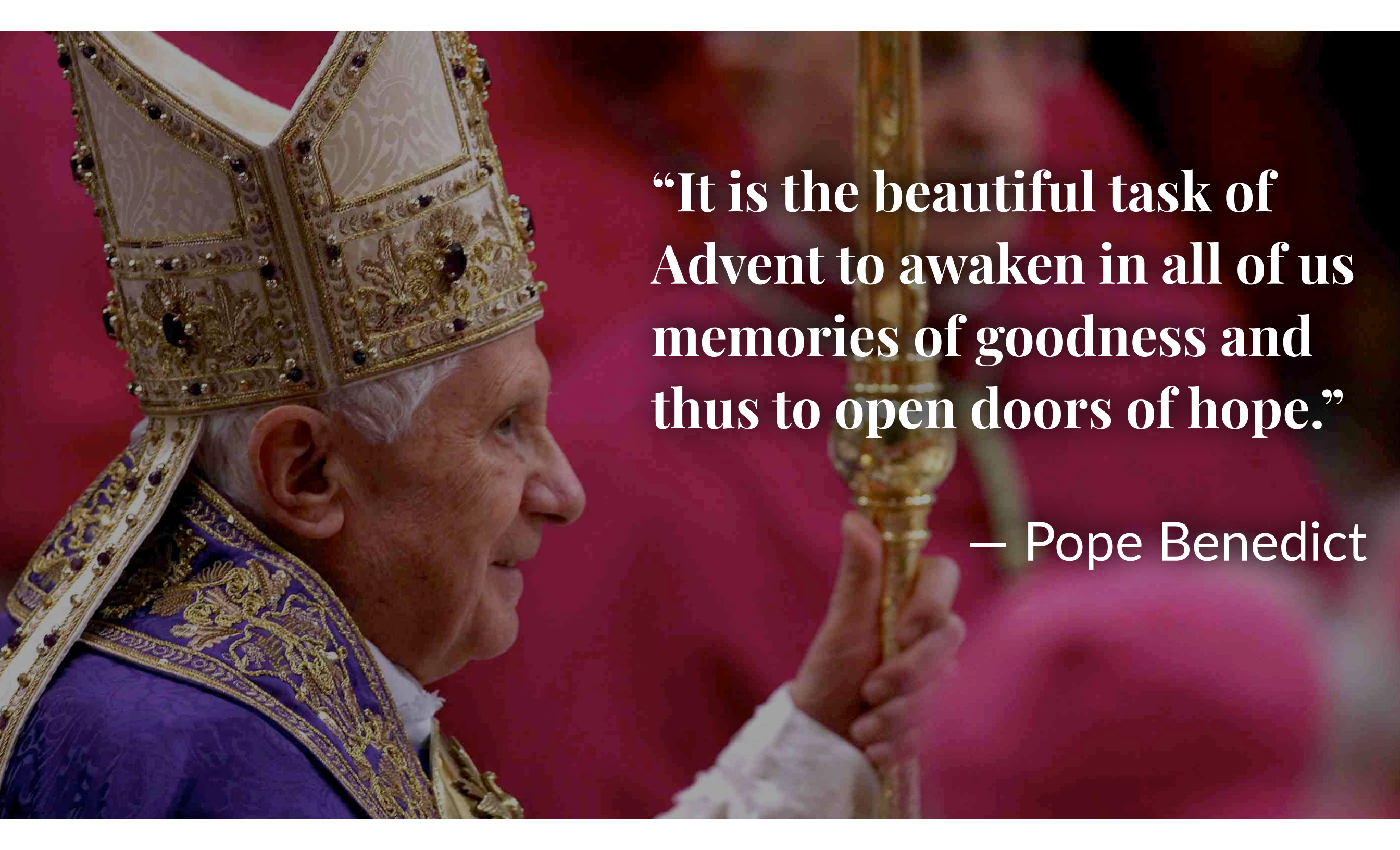
[HOME](#) [LITURGICAL SEASONS](#) [MONTH-BY-MONTH](#)

Advent

All Advent

Prayers & Devotions

- **Jesse Tree:** There are lots of versions of this. They use various combinations of symbols representing the family line of Jesus, key biblical figures, or other events from salvation history. Regardless of which symbols are included, each day one symbol is reflected on (usually with a Scripture reading and/or prayer), and an ornament with the corresponding symbol is hung on the "tree". The "tree" can be a tabletop tree, a branch in a vase, a poster, a jewelry tree, a clothesline-style display, etc.
- **Blessing of a Manger or Nativity Scene**
- **Advent Wreath:** The circle, which never ends, teaches us that God and the joy of eternity never end. The evergreen, which never changes, reminds us that God's love never changes. The purple recalls the penance with which purifies our hearts, and the candlelight, which increases each week, tells us that Christ is the Light



“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.”

— Pope Benedict