

Symbols OF THE SEASON



The Wreath

The most familiar symbol of Advent is the Advent wreath. Usually made from evergreen boughs, the Advent wreath holds three violet-colored candles and a rose-colored one. There will be a wreath at church this week, and the first candle will be lit. Perhaps your family has a wreath at home where you gather each day to pray as you wait for the Christ Child.



A wreath's circle shape has many positive meanings. Circles symbolize unity, perfection, eternity, equality, never-ending love—all attributes of God and heaven. On the Advent wreath, the rose candle symbolizes joy. It is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent. Do you know why?

To find the answer, start with the J and, moving clockwise, write every other letter as you go around this wreath.





First Wednesday of Advent
December 4 ★ Saint John Damascene

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 15:29-37

There were thousands of people but only seven loaves of bread and a few fish. Jesus gave thanks, broke the food, and fed all the people. Everyone ate until they were full, and there were still seven baskets of leftovers (15:35-37).

Fill in the missing words in these sentences.

If you need help, refer to the Gospel reading.


Jesus was preaching on a  _____ .

There were just a few  _____ .

There were seven loaves of  _____ .

Before he fed the people, Jesus gave  _____ .

To distribute the food, Jesus had help from his  _____ .

Jesus was preaching by the Sea of  _____ .

There were seven baskets of  _____ .



Write the letters inside the loaves and fish in these boxes to see what Jesus did that day.

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Second Monday of Advent December 9 ★ Immaculate Conception



TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

Mary said to the angel, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (1:38).

Today we honor Mary by attending Mass. But it is easy to get confused about the meaning of this day. Are we celebrating Jesus' conception, which was immaculate, or Mary's conception, which was also immaculate? Remember, the feast of the Immaculate Conception is about Mary being conceived without sin. She remained sinless throughout her life.

Just for fun, take this little test to see if you know these Advent facts. Circle the correct answers.

1

The first Sunday of Advent

- A** begins a six-week period of fast and abstinence
B begins a new Church year **C** begins the Christmas season

2

On an Advent wreath, three candles are violet while one is

- A** white **B** gold **C** rose

3

When Joseph heard that Mary was with child, he

- A** told Mary nothing had changed between them **B** decided to divorce her quietly **C** went to Mary's parents for advice

4

The angel who appeared to Mary was named

- A** Michael **B** Raphael **C** Gabriel

5

Mary went to see her cousin, Elizabeth, who was also with child. That child was named

- A** John **B** Peter **C** Zechariah



Second Saturday of Advent
December 14 ★ Saint John of the Cross

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:9A, 10-13

Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision you just saw" (17:9).

Today's Gospel tells the story of a fascinating event for Jesus and three of his disciples. **First, fill in these missing words. If you need help, see Matthew 17:1-13.**

- 1 Jesus went up on a high _ _ _ _ _ .
- 2 He took three of his disciples, _ _ _ ,
_ _ _ _ , and _ _ _ .
- 3 Jesus' clothes turned dazzling white, and his _ _ _
shone like the sun.
- 4 Suddenly, _ _ _ and _ _ _ _
were with him.
- 5 When it was over, Jesus told the disciples not to say anything
until he was _ _ _ _ from the dead.
- 6 After this event, these three disciples knew Jesus was the Son
of _ _ _ .

Now, unscramble the circled letters to spell this event.



Third Saturday of Advent

December 21 ★ Saint Peter Canisius

TODAY'S GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb (1:41).

Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth and share her joy at expecting a baby. Elizabeth was not only happy about her own baby, but she was thrilled for Mary as well. Each of them had been surprised at the news of their babies.

When Elizabeth saw Mary, she greeted her with the words that have become a familiar prayer for us today, **“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”**

Find each of those familiar words in this puzzle. Words can go in any direction, and they can change direction, at any point. Letters must be next to one another. Some words can be found in several directions, but each word must be found at least once. **Blessed** must be found twice. One word is shown for you.

L	Y	W	N	D	S	E	O
A	O	I	R	N	E	F	W
M	W	U	Y	E	R	S	B
B	R	W	O	U	A	T	S
T	S	S	E	L	B	C	E
I	R	S	C	F	T	Y	L
F	Y	E	Q	D	A	G	B
R	N	D	M	M	F	I	H
U	I	T	O	L	M	N	R
R	H	L	W	N	A	V	D
T	A	E	L	B	G	L	F

O **DAWN OF THE EAST**, brightness of the light eternal, and sun of justice. Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

