

November 27, 2011

First Sunday of Advent



CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

6300 McKenna Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608

Email: Church@CorpusChristiParish.com ! Website: www.CorpusChristiParish.com

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313
School Office: 342-5474, ext. 1 • Fax 380-0325
Rel. Ed. Office: 342-5474, ext. 7 • Fax 380-0325
Preschool Office: 342-2424 • Fax 343-3119
Youth Ministry: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313

PASTORAL STAFF

Very Rev. James F. Zoghby, V.F., Pastor
Rev. John S. Boudreaux, Associate Pastor
Deacon Arthur W. Robbins, Deacon
Sr. Donna Cooper, R.S.M., Visitation Chaplain
Mrs. Linda M. Hawkins, Pastoral Assistant
Mrs. Judi B. Ankiewicz, Pastoral Assistant
Mrs. Joan T. McMullen, School Principal
Mrs. Kathleen Q. Jester, Parish Catechetical Leader
Mrs. Colleen DeVoe, Youth Ministry Co-Director
Mrs. Brenda Martens, Youth Ministry Co-Director
Mr. Matthew F. Purvis, Music Director
Mr. Jay H. Henley, Gym Manager

TO REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH

Please fill out a Census Form. Census Forms are available in the church vestibule and parish office.

COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS & SERVICES

For rental information and kitchen services, please call the parish office at 342-1852 or 342-1420.

SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil: 5:30 p.m. Saturday
Morning: 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 a.m.: Monday through Friday
8:15 a.m.: Monday through Saturday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and by request, particularly after the 6:30 & 8:15 a.m. weekday Masses.

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF SICK

Please call the parish office (342-1852) for information and scheduling baptism, marriage, anointing of sick.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Please see published schedule for specific dates and times, or call the parish office (342-1852).

SUNDAY SCHOOL (C.C.D.) Grades K-12, Sundays during school year, 10:05-10:55 a.m. in school bldgs.

SCHOOL, *SACS-accredited* for Grades K through 8. For info & registration, please call the school office.

PRESCHOOL, *State-licensed* for 6-week to 4-yr. olds. For info & registration, please call the preschool office



Celebrating Advent

Communal Reconciliation Services

Advent Celebrations of God's Loving Forgiveness

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.: Children's 1st Reconciliation. *All are welcome.*

Monday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.: *All are welcome.*

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18, at 7 a.m.

During these two Masses, after the homily, the Sacrament of the Sick (for physical, emotional, mental or spiritual healing) will be given to all who feel the need for it because of age or illness. This anointing will also be brought to shut-ins at home and others requesting it.

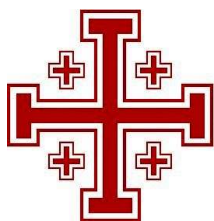
Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree is in the vestibule to provide gifts for clients of Catholic Social Services. If you take an "angel" from the tree, save it and attach it as a tag on the wrapped gift you bring. Gifts must be placed around the tree by Sunday, Dec. 11.

Communion Ministers Training

for those who wish to serve and Mass and/or bring Communion to the Sick & Shut-in

Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m.



UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Wednesday Classes resume Nov. 30
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Adult Ed. Room in the Community Center

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Continuing education for Catholic adults and other adults who wish to learn more about and/or join the Catholic Church.

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Adult Ed. Room in the Community Center.

SPECIAL NOTES!

1. Send your email address to church@corpuschristiparish.com
2. Please support our advertisers on the back of the bulletin. Their ads give us our bulletins & inserts free of charge.
3. Current & past bulletins are online: www.CorpusChristiParish.com; click "Church" then "Sunday Bulletin."

Journey of Hope

A New Program for Separated and Divorced Catholics

Introductory Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Meet in the Family Room of Corpus Christi Community Center

This program for separated/divorced Catholics offers support, and addresses important concerns and issues that arise as a result of a divorce. The strong emphasis on prayer, Scripture and Church teaching leads to healing and a better relationship with Christ.

Some of the topics discussed are:

How Do I Deal with my Anger? ! Why Does God Allow Divorce to Happen?
What does the Church say about divorce? ! What is a Church annulment?
Can I receive the Sacraments? ! Should I date? ! Suffering has meaning?!
Do I have to forgive? ! Dealing with your ex-spouse ! Do I need to let go?
How do I deal with my children? ! Finding hope for the future.

Widowed Persons' Support Group

For information call parishioner Glen Porter at 666-8977.

Bringing Scripture to Life for Moms and Women of All Ages

A Marian Bible Study by Laura Marie Wells

Studying the Bible is an important and integral part of our growth as Catholic Christians. Women of all ages are invited to join us as we study the Bible together, learn from Mary, and support one another on our faith journey. Mary was a daughter, wife, mother, friend and saint. She experienced many of the joys and sorrows that we face today as women. Please join us Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m. starting January 12 in Meeting Room 5 of the Corpus Christi Community Center (2nd Floor). For more information and to sign up, please contact Penny Claiborne at 776-5850 or claiborneps@aol.com, or Joanne Donaghey at 554-6753 or joannekd@aol.com. **Nursery available.**

Bible Study Groups

Sun: 8:45-10 a.m.: Info: Ken Crowley, 423-6921.

Tue: 1:30-3 p.m. : Genesis. Info: Judi Ankiewicz, 344-0321.

Tue, 7 p.m.: Arts & Sciences Bldg., Fine Arts wing. Dave Burchette, 367-6660.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Poor Box, Food, Clothing donations put in the designated places in the vestibule are distributed by our St. Vincent de Paul Society
If you know of anyone needing assistance, please call 432-5173, or the Parish Office. All contacts are handled in confidence.

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Com. Ctr. Conf. Rm. (2nd Flr.)

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

Open House

Thursday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All interested parents are invited to tour our school, meet our faculty and staff, and visit classrooms in our SACS-accredited school. Registration information will be available. If you are unable to attend this Open House, we will have another Open House on Sunday, January 8, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. You may also call the school office at 342-5474, ext. 1, to arrange a personal tour at your convenience. We offer many programs that provide a unique learning opportunity for all students.

Daily Religion class ! Weekly Mass ! Elementary and Junior High Resource Program ! Accelerated Reader Program ! K-6 Spanish ! 7th & 8th Grade Latin ! Interactive Boards in all classrooms ! Science Lab ! National Junior Honor Society ! Duke Scholars' Program ! Corpus Christi News (CCN) ! Scholars' Bowl Team ! Computer Club ! Shakespeare-After-School Drama Club ! Chess Team ! Running Club ! Scouting ! Elementary Band (5-8) ! School Newspaper & Yearbook ! CYO Sports

Info: www.CorpusChristiParish.com ("School") or 342-5474, ext. 1.

SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Holidays begin Friday, Dec. 16. Noon Dismissal.
Classes resume Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Ads for our 2012 Yearbook are now being accepted: If you are interested in putting an ad in the 2012 edition, please contact Sharon Lynn at 342-5474, ext. 1105 for details on submitting it.

Sunday School

No Classes This Sunday, Nov. 27. Thanksgiving holiday weekend.
Classes Resume Dec. 4: 10:05-10:55 a.m.

The Women's Club

Christmas Party: Wed., Dec. 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center Conference Room (2nd Floor). Please bring toiletry items to fill stockings for the elderly at the Allen Memorial Home. Also bring some holiday goodies to share.

Info: Barbara Collette, 767-1638 or Earline Thorne, 414-3507.

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: 2nd Tues. Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Com. Ctr. Conf. Rm.. (2nd Flr).
Contact: Grand Knight, Bob Wheat, 490-9350.

The Booster Club

Meetings: Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Mar. 14, Apr. 18. 7 p.m., Rm 6, (2nd Floor, Com. Ctr.).

Cub Scouts – Pack Mtg: Tues, Nov 29, 6 pm, Com. Ctr.
To Join Cub Scouts or for info: Walter Bracewell 633-2027 or Mike Martin 633-5218 or visit ccspack29.scoutlander.com.

"Season of Peace"

A Piano Recital by Music Director Matthew Purvis
Tonight! Nov. 27, at 6 p.m. in the church.

"The Voice"

A Piano and Vocal Recital by Music Director Matthew Purvis
Sunday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. in the church.

Donations at the above performances will be used for additional instrumentalists at our Christmas Concert.

Donations of auction items are also accepted for a Silent Auction to be held immediately before and after the Christmas Concert, Dec. 11. Proceeds from the Auction will also be used for additional instrumentalists for Corpus Christi's music program. Auction items may also be dropped off at the parish office, or you may call Anne Norton at 689-5134 to arrange for pick-up.

Save the Date!

Corpus Christi Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. in the church

Congratulations to Corpus Christi's
Men of St. Joseph

on the occasion of their 1st Anniversary

All men of the parish are invited to visit the Men of St. Joseph at any of their weekly gatherings on Tuesday mornings.

Men of St. Joseph

Tuesdays, 7 to 8 a.m. in the Family Room

All men are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Jim Donaghey, jbd@orthomobile.com or www.MenOfStJoseph.com

Women of Mary

Tuesday Meeting, 9 to 10 a.m. in the Family Room

Wednesday Meeting, 7 to 8 p.m. in the Family Room

All women are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Judi Ankiewicz, 344-0321, or Sr. Deborah Kennedy, R.S.M., 316-3960.

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall

\$9.00 for Adults ! \$4.00 for Children (Age 12 & under)

Nov. 30 ~ Fried Fish or Baked Fish/Tartar Sauce, Baked Chicken, Hush Puppies, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Banana Pudding.

Kids Meal: Cheese Burgers/Lettuce/Tomatoes, French Fries.

Must RSVP with your name & number in your party: 1. Return an RSVP Card, or 2. Call 342-1852 or 3. Email church@CorpusChristiParish.com

Hearing Assistance Available in Vestibule

Three types of receivers: one fits in the ear, one hangs against the ear, and one, worn around the neck, transmits to a hearing aid.

Info is also available if you wish to purchase your own device.

Rosary after 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass, Monday-Saturday.

Flowers

The flowers before the altar this weekend have been placed in memory of
Theodora Scott
on the 4th anniversary of her death.
Given by Jerry Scott and family.

Flowers

The flowers before the pulpit this weekend have been placed in memory of
Ray Paul Manas
on the 5th anniversary of his death.
Given by The Manas Family.

Around the Archdiocese: Struggling after an abortion?

Seeking peace years after the choice? You are not alone in this pain. There is healing for any person who struggles with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. Transform the silent ache of the past into a feeling of hope and peace through a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat, Feb. 10-12, in the Mobile area. To register, call Bridget at 251-421-4313, or email rachelsvineyardmobile@gmail.com. All inquiries are strictly confidential. For more information: www.rachelsvineyard.org. **Christmas Tree Sales Support McGill-Toolen Baseball Program.** Pre-ordered trees will be available for pickup on the weekends of Nov. 26-27 & Dec. 3-4. Please place your order as soon as possible by contacting Harry Satterwhite at harry@satterwhitelaw.com or 251-680-2305. **St. Lawrence Parish's Christmas Bazaar**, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Lawrence Parish Hall, 370 S. Section St. Fairhope. Info: 591-7149 or 928-5931.

Bulletin Deadline: Monday at 12 noon.

FIRST COLLECTION TODAY for tithing offerings.
SECOND COLLECTION TODAY for Corpus Christi Building Fund.

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: \$1,463.00
NOV. 20TH BUILDING FUND ONLINE & COLLECTION: \$12,626.00
NOV. 20TH TITHING ONLINE & COLLECTION: \$25,354.71

Thank You and God Bless You

for your tithes, contributions & bequests to Corpus Christi Church. To make a direct donation of stock, ask your stockbroker, or call Steve Setterstrom at Citigroup Global Mkts. at 470-1060.

Receive a detail listing of your contributions by mail, email or fax at any time:

Call 342-1852 or email Church@CorpusChristiParish.com

Online Giving



With Online Giving you can either make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings or credit card account: Go to www.CorpusChristiParish.com; click "Church"; then click the green Online Giving icon on the left, and follow the instructions to contribute to the tithing or building fund or special collections. **For assistance**, call 1-800-348-2886, ext 4, or parish office, 342-1852.

The Anointing of the Sick

Who Should Receive It?



Q. *I recently attended a church ceremony in which a friend of mine received what we used to call Extreme Unction. Several people received the sacrament, including some who were young and didn't look sick at all. Isn't it necessary to be "in danger of death" to have this sacrament? And what is the proper name for it? I've heard it called several things.*

A. Vatican Council II, in calling for a return to "the ancient usage of the holy Fathers," said in its Constitution on the Liturgy, "Extreme Unction, which may more properly be called the Anointing of the Sick (its official name today), is a sacrament not only for those who are in danger of death."

Thus, the sacrament is for the sick, but by no means only for the dying. In a scriptural passage which forms one of the main bases for the anointing of the sick, St. James says: "Is anyone sick among you? Let him ask for the presbyters of the church. They will pray over him, and anoint him in the Name of the Lord. This prayer, made in faith, will save the sick person. The Lord will restore his health, and if he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven." (James 5:14)

According to our present rite for anointing of the sick, then, an individual need not be in danger of death, but "dangerously ill" either from sickness or advanced age. In other words, older people are considered eligible for the sacrament simply because of the general infirmities of old age, even if they are suffering from no serious specific disease. Moreover, the illness need not be physical. Guidelines on this sacrament issued by the U.S. bishops note, "Sickness is more than a medical phenomenon. Sickness is a crisis situation in the life of a Christian as regards his salvation, his life with Christ in the community of the Church." Anointing of the sick may be administered to people suffering from various kinds of spiritual or emotional crises.

The official directions concerning this sacrament mention several specific circumstances in which people should be anointed, e.g., old age, before serious surgery, and sick children.

All this simply means that there could be many explanations for the situation you encountered. People no longer need to be dying, or even look sick, to receive the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Rev John J. Dietzen

The new translation of the Prayers of the Mass Begins This Weekend.

Old Translation Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good, that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming, and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with your and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father, from all you give us, we present this bread and wine. As we serve you now, accept our offering, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father, may our communion teach us to love heaven. May its promise and hope guide our way on earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING OR PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

You believe that the Son of God once came to us; you look for him to come again. May his coming bring you the light of his holiness, and his blessing bring you freedom. [Amen.]

May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life. [Amen.]

You rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us as man. When he comes again in glory, may he reward you with endless life. [Amen.]

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. [Amen.]

New Translation starts this weekend Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven, and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING OR PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son, and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent, and enrich you with his blessing. [Amen.]

As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity. [Amen.]

So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty. [Amen.]

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you, and remain with you for ever. [Amen.]



Prayers Around the Advent Wreath

The Season of Advent begins next Sunday.

You may wish to set-up an Advent Wreath in your home – a meaningful and beautiful way to remember the true meaning of Christmas as you prepare to celebrate that wondrous feast. Below are suggested reflections and prayers for the lighting of a candle each week. You may also wish to begin with a verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!” and to conclude with the Our Father.

The First Week of Advent

Reflection: Stay awake! Be ready! As Advent begins, the liturgy reminds us that we are also preparing for the coming of Christ at the end of the world. We cannot know the time of Christ’s coming, so we should live every day remembering that we will each have to give an account of ourselves. The Lord’s coming should also fill us with joyful hope, for on that day weapons of war and violence will be beat into instruments of peace and justice, and the Lord of love shall reign.

Light one candle.

Scripture: “May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more... In this way he will strengthen you and you will be perfect and holy... When our Lord Jesus comes” (1Thes. 3:12-13).

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. Teach us to leave the darkness behind and to live in your light. Help us not to hurt each other by our words and actions. Make us thoughtful and generous so that we can be ready to greet you when you come.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus!

The Second Week of Advent

Reflection: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the path! We hear the voice of John the Baptist calling us to prepare our hearts to greet the Lord. “Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand,” he says. In other words, straighten out your crooked ways and make your rough places smooth. You too are a herald of God’s reign. Make peace, give comfort, be patient. Cry out with your deeds: “Our God is coming! Prepare the way.”

Light two candles.

Scripture: “May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify God” (Romans 15:5-6).

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. May the fire of your love burn away our sins. May it help us to prepare the way for you by being kind, forgiving and fair.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus!

The Third Week of Advent

Reflection: Rejoice! Here is your God! As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that the Lord is with us even now. Jesus came to give sight to the blind and life to the dead. Christ’s reign is among us through our deeds of love and generosity. Let us not grow weary, but steady our hearts and rejoice, for the Lord is close at hand!

Light three candles including the rose-colored one.

Scripture: “Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near” (Phil 4:4-5).

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. May your light shine brightly so we can see you everywhere. Help us to spread your light and joy by giving freely and happily to all we meet.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus!

The Fourth Week of Advent

Reflection: The angel announces to Mary, “You shall bear a son whose name will be Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us”. With Mary, we are called to be Christ bearers. With her we wonder, “How can this be?” As Christmas draws near, let us open our hearts in trust to the power of the Holy Spirit who comes upon us. Let us join Mary in saying, “Be it done unto me according to your will.”

Light all four candles.

Scripture: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus... Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord’s words to her would be fulfilled” (Luke 1:42, 45).

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. Yet you were born in the darkness of night, in a cold stable with only the animals to warm you. Let the light of your love shine on us so we can see you today in all the helpless children, who have no home. Teach us to love you in them.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus!

Our Chrismon Tree

The word “Chrismon” is formed from the words “Christ” and “monogram” and means a monogram, sign or symbol of Christ. What follows are descriptions of just a few of the Chrismons on our Chrismon tree in the atrium.



IOTA CHI (IX). The Iota (I), is the first letter of the name “Jesus” in Greek. The Chi (X) (in English “CH”) is the first letter of the Greek Word for “Christ”, the translation of the Hebrew “Messiah”, which means “The Anointed One”. The two initials are superimposed to form a monogram for “Jesus the Christ”.



JERUSALEM CROSS. Used by the crusaders, some suggest that the five crosses symbolize the five wounds of Jesus. Another interpretation: the four Tau crosses which make the center cross represent the

Old Testament prophecies of a Savior. The small crosses represent those who take up a cross, follow Jesus, and proclaim and live the Gospel to the four corners of the world.



CROWN. The crown is a symbol for the Kingship of Jesus, King of Kings & the Lord of Lords. This also evokes thoughts of our Savior’s victory over sin, death and every evil.



THREE ENTWINED CIRCLES. A traditional symbol for the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons. Each eternal, all one.



THE CHI RHO. In Greek the first two letters of the title “Christ” are Chi (X) and Rho (P), an early abbreviation of “CHRist”. The Chi (X) was often superimposed on the Rho (P) as a monogram for “Christ”.

Sometimes, the Chi (X) was turned or rotated to line up with the vertical line of the Rho (P), forming a cross.



CROWN OF THORNS WITH I.N.R.I. A symbol of Jesus’ passion. I.N.R.I. stands for “Iesus Nazareus Rex Iudaeorum” – which is Latin for “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”.



IOTA ETA SIGMA (IHS) ON A GREEK CROSS. The first three letters of JESus in Greek (or the first two and the last, JESuS) compose this familiar monogram. The use of IHS on a Greek cross suggest the sacrifice that our Savior made for our salvation.



FISH. Early Christians used the fish widely as an easily made and recognized secret sign because the five letters in the Greek word for fish formed an acronym for “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior”. During the times of persecution of the Church, Christians could find each other by using this simple password.

To the outsider, the fish was a mere decoration. To the Christian, it was an affirmation of faith in the Christ. In the catacombs, fishes were drawn to direct Christians to meeting places.

Advent Colors

In the liturgical renewal, the Church distinguishes, perhaps more clearly today, the difference between the season of Advent (a season of joyful expectancy) and the season of Lent (a specifically penitential season). While the official color for the season of Advent is violet, the “Ordo” for Mass suggests that “bluer hues of violet might be used for Advent” to express the difference between Advent and Lent. Some liturgists promote violet or purple for Lent and a deep blue as the color for Advent – expressing Advent’s theme of joyful expectancy and the role of Mary in the mystery of the Christmas event. Although we do not use blue vestments because blue is not one of the official colors in our Latin rite (white, green, violet and red are the four official colors), blue trim on violet vestments is an acceptable way to express the difference between the Advent and Lenten seasons (in the same way that blue trim is often used on white vestments for feasts of Mary). Today, Advent wreaths may be made with either violet or blue candles. There is also the option of using the traditional rose-colored candle for the third Sunday of Advent to symbolize the nearness of Christmas joy announced in the first word of that Sunday’s Entrance Antiphon: “Rejoice” (Latin, *Gaudete*). In the Advent season, we pray that the Lord may “find us waiting, eager in joyful prayer.”

Excerpts from the “Ordo” and from “Catholic Customs and Traditions” by Greg Dues