

# Religious Education

Turning Faith into Action

Third Sunday of Advent

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## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

Catechist Beth Baillie

Greetings from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. We are busy learning about the Bible, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and prayers that all Catholics should know. We have also created a prayer/good deeds tree in the classroom. Each week we add more to our special and amazing tree!

1

WELCOME

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Beth Baillie

2

ADVENT

What is Advent

Advent Wreath

3

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

# Advent

## Time of preparation

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Our Lord. It is the four weeks before Christmas and is a time of waiting. We should spend these four weeks preparing our hearts and our minds to be ready to accept Jesus on Christmas Day. It is a way of redirecting ourselves towards the true meaning of Christmas - which is the Birth of Jesus.

## Advent Wreath

The advent candles correspond to the themes of each week of advent. Families and church congregations begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

- The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.
- The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.
- The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.
- The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The



angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

- The (optional) **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

(excerpted from [Understanding the Meaning, History, and Tradition of the Advent Wreath](#))



### Annual Christmas Program

Come join us for lunch and listen to the kids sing on December 19<sup>th</sup> after 11:00 mass. We will be serving lunch as well.