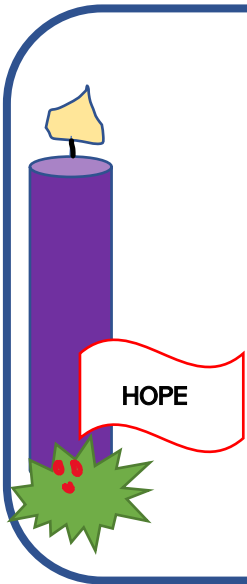


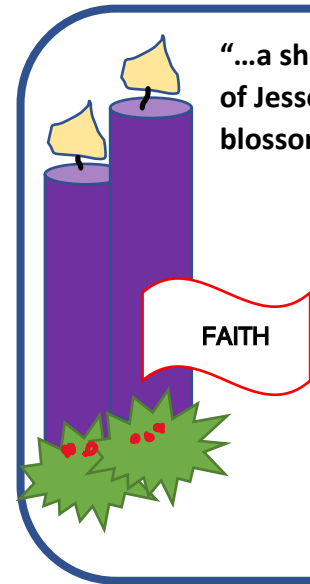
First Week of Advent, the candle of hope



**“O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!”**

*O Mother of the Word Incarnate, be our hope. Pray for us and ensure that hope remains with us this Advent through any struggles or trials. Inspire us with trust that we will have joy and peace. Please help us prepare the way for Jesus to be born again in our hearts this Christmas. Amen*

Second Week of Advent, the candle of faith



**“...a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.”**

*Lord God, let your words take root in our spirits and blossom in our hearts. May we possess the faith and trust of your daughter Mary to say yes to your power in our lives. Light the lamp of your wisdom so that we may see our world in the light of your loving son. Amen*

The First Week of Advent

God of comfort, these times seem so uncertain, so scary. The world seems darker than it has in the past and I am less sure of myself. Maybe that's a good thing; maybe now I am turning to you with a realization that I need you so much more and that my life is not in my own control. Let me not forget all of those around the world who are frightened at this moment. Help those who are victims of terrorism and war. Be with those who have lost so much in the past year. Hold us all in your loving arms and let us be comforted by the strength and peace you want so much to offer us through the birth of your son, Jesus. Thank you for the many gifts you offer us.

Remember a time where hope got you through a difficult situation. How can that hope help you this Advent?

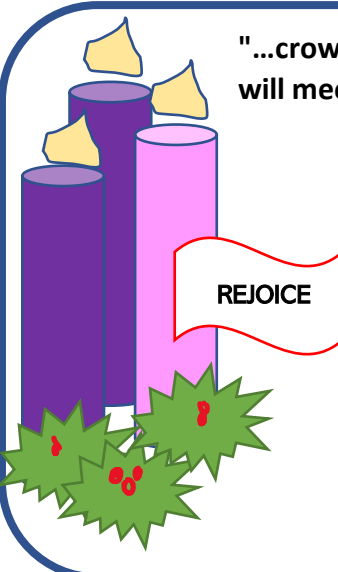
The Second Week of Advent

Gentle One, as we wait prayerfully for your coming as a humble child, help us to embrace your gospel with a simple childlike faith; faith that is centered in humble gratitude for the gift of life itself; faith that inspires us to embrace your Spirit of understanding and compassion; faith that is focused on making your Father's kingdom of peace filled reconciliation a reality in our time and place.

Holy Savior may your light shine on us so we may pass our faith on to others through our acts of generosity, forgiveness, and love.

Faith is trusting in God's love for you. How did you first come to know of it? How are you sharing faith and love with others?

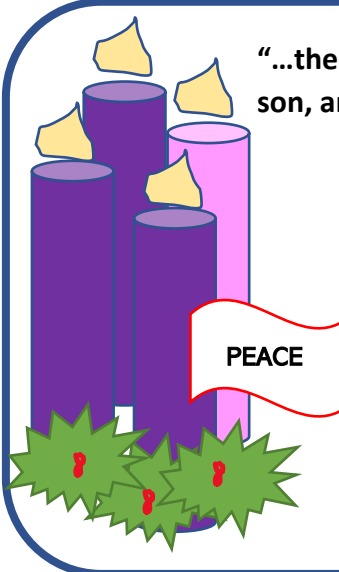
### Third Week of Advent, the candle of joy



**"...crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness..."**

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in the coming of our Savior. We find true joy in Him today and look longingly to His return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts during this Advent season so we may truly rejoice with Him. Amen*

### Fourth Week of Advent, the candle of peace



**"...the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."**

*O sweet Child of Bethlehem, put into our hearts, the peace for which we sometimes so desperately seek. Peace that goes beyond worldly intellect, and which you alone can give. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Amen*

#### The Third Week of Advent

Dear God, as I look through my Christmas shopping list, I hold up to you each person listed on it. Slowly, one by one, I ask that the fire of your abundant love burn within each of them. Help me to buy wisely. Let me not give in to the pressures of this world and not to equate love with money spent. I pray that the gift I find for each person will bring joy into their lives. Help us remember that joy doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. Our joy comes from you alone. And finally, loving God, help me to find time in the frantic moments of each day to become centered on you. Walking through a store, riding in a car, being busy at work: let each of these times be moments when I can remember your incredible love for me and rejoice in it.

When have you known the deepest joy in life? How is your joy making a difference in the world?

#### The Fourth Week of Advent

They are coming! Oh, dear Lord, like the Wisemen wandering toward the stable, visitors are heading to my house. I am so excited about this visit. I can get so side-tracked about how my house looks, or the food that I serve. I can only keep this peaceful and prayerful with your help.

I long for the grace of your coming, Lord. Help me to stay humble this Advent and Christmas season. You invite us into the humility of the stable where you were born. Help me to remember the humbleness and simple joy of your birth. Let me stay focused on my guests, not on myself and my worries about my house. Guide me in rejoicing in who these people are and in loving them freely. Console me with the gift of your peace.

What does "peace" mean to you? How can you better experience peace in the Christmas season and share it with others?