

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO

the Holy Days

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The term 'Advent' comes to us from Latin and simply means “the coming”. As a season, Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical calendar and consists of the four Sundays which immediately precede Christmas Day, December 25.

This season offers the Church a time of reflection and contemplation as we prepare ourselves for the joyous celebration of Christ's birth, and therefore, it is rightly filled with wonder and mystery. We light candles, we surround ourselves with ancient symbols, and we sing timely songs which we generally won't sing again unless another year passes.

However, this season also offers the Church a sobering reminder that the One whose birth we celebrate is also the One whose return we anticipate, and therefore, it is rightly filled with repentance and preparation. We decorate with rich purple or deep blue, symbolizing both royalty and repentance, for the rightful King of our world and our lives is returning.

During this season of preparation, there are a variety of ways to mark the days and weeks that pass. Some do so with an Advent calendar, while others chose otherwise. Even the thematic weeks offer a variety of options to congregations, but please join us in the weeks that follow as we together reflect upon the themes we've chosen...