

Celebrating Advent

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 10**.

The Church's liturgical year begins with Advent, a season of hope and waiting.

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During Advent we get our churches, our homes, and our hearts ready to celebrate Jesus' birth.

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The word *Advent* comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "arrival" or "coming." During Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

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There are four Sundays during the Advent season. We also celebrate two feasts of Mary's during Advent.

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When we look around our church during Advent, we see a purple cloth draped on the altar, and the priest will be wearing purple vestments. On the third Sunday of Advent, the priest may wear rose-colored vestments.

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The Angelus is a prayer of devotion that recalls the mystery of the Incarnation. It is prayed three times a day.

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During Advent we see an Advent wreath in our church. Each of the wreath's four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent.

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The Angelus begins with the words the angel used to greet Mary when he told her about becoming Jesus' mother.

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During Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth by choosing to make good moral choices.

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There are many Advent traditions that help people prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. These traditions include Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Jesse trees, and Saint Nicholas Day celebrations.

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