

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Next weekend December 1, 2024, we begin the first week of the Advent season, a four-week liturgical season of preparation that leads us into Christmas season. The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, issued by the Holy See in March 1969 as part of the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council, gives a beautiful description of the season: “Advent has a twofold character as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second coming at the end of time.” The Second Vatican Council explains further: “Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.”

We’re blessed to have some dedicated parishioners that always help us with Advent and Christmas celebrations. I’m always grateful! God bless you all!

As you know, an Advent wreath has four candles (three are purple and one is pink) symbolizing: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace of the four weeks of the Advent. Some parishes add the fifth candle, a white one. It is lit on Christmas to remind Christians of the light Jesus Christ brings to the world.

Every year, our parish center helps us with some resources to make our season of Advent a fruitful celebration. The parish has again ordered: Daily Reflection for Advent & Christmas, Living Faith, and The Word Among Us. You also have a resource on each day of Advent with a meditation of the daily Mass readings on our Flocknote email and Formed.org.

As regards the celebration of our Annual Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession service, Fr. James O’Connor, the pastor of St. Brendan Catholic Church in Elkins, will join us to hear confessions in our parish on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 7 pm. You may also call the parish center any day for confession at 304-472-3414.

We also will continue to celebrate our daily Mass on Tuesday through Friday with our Holy Hour on Wednesday and Adoration on the First Friday.

Please let us know if you need any assistance to help you have a fruitful and a blessed season of Advent and Christmas.

You all have a grace-filled and blessed Advent Season.

Fr. Ed Tetteh, SVD

