

Catholic Advent

Praying, fasting, and almsgiving the weeks before Christmas Day

Christmastime does not end on December 25. In fact The Christian Christmas Season **BEGINS** on the eve of December 24 and the Christmas celebration continues through the 12 days of Christmas.

In the older tradition of Christmastide (which is still kept in the liturgical calendar of the Extraordinary Form of the Mass) Christmas lasts until Candlemas, or the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of the Lord, which isn't until February 2nd.

The Advent (from, "*ad-venire*" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas Season, starting on Christmas Eve. It is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. Advent is also the beginning of the Church's liturgical year.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

So, we can let the "pseudo Christmas" glamor and clamor become reminders to prepare our hearts – through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving -- for the coming of Our Savior.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. The USCCB Advent calendar (online) can help you fully enter in to the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. More Advent resources are listed below.

Advent Activities from the USCCB

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/>





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- About Advent Wreaths
- Blessing of an Advent Wreath
- Blessing of a Christmas Tree
- Commentary on the Proper Prayers of Advent from the Roman Missal
- Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene
- *Lectio Divina* for Advent
- Liturgical Notes for Advent
- The "O Antiphons" of Advent
- Advent 2017 Calendar - Bilingual
- Family Advent 2017 Calendar - Bilingual

Advent Music

10 Advent Songs to Remind You It's Not Yet Christmas from Matt Fradd

O Come O Come Emmanuel

[blob:https://www.youtube.com/b3f477d9-fa3a-48a3-96c8-920fd80cb78d](https://www.youtube.com/b3f477d9-fa3a-48a3-96c8-920fd80cb78d)

O Come Divine Messiah

<https://youtu.be/HfhgjssvXBE>

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

<https://youtu.be/3pabx6towKE>

Ave Maria

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwp1CH5R-w4&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66zUY8UZn4M&index=27&list=RD33XotuYs-io>

Come Thou Fount

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYrTqBiaZ4>

Rorate Caeli Desuper

<https://youtu.be/v8sfvGo6ePM>

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

<https://youtu.be/dZnabxcayqc>

Gabriel's Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQ5wmFi9sfA&feature=youtu.be>

Veni, Veni Emanuel (Latin Version)

<https://youtu.be/jDsYNw6DM0Q>



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Advent Around the World

Traditional Villancicos (Spain and Colombia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InI5Essl8kc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTDwIlg5BK8I>

Musica di Avvento (Italy)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOSXHmMwJQI&list=PLSps22QxQfZTtp2zdN1E9ZPgoOX-nZOXf>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcHXvARGeOc&list=PLOP6V_WegQITt2n05XbnsjKkSrOApkhC

Chansons de Noël (France)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obUzfJe_W9c

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx2HAMDKe5o>

Chansons de Noël (Tanzania)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMaQx5bRWzk>

Christmas Mass (Congo)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxxTG9Wo2-Y>