



ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS TODAY

Advent is the Church's season of preparation by prayer, expectation, and good works for the Coming of Christ at Christmas. Advent has its own liturgical color which is violet. The use of flowers and the organ are moderated during Advent to make the Celebration of Christmas stand out more joyfully! Christmas is celebrated as it's own season beginning with the Christmas eve Vigil and continuing until the Baptism of the Lord on January 7th this year.



Read the Gospel and Color



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What is the season of Advent?

DURING THE WEEK

Sing or say:

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And givethem victory o'er the grave
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (524).

Since Advent looks forward to Christ's birth and Incarnation, it is an appropriate way to begin the Church Year. However, Advent is not part of the Christmas season itself, but a preparation for it. Thus, Catholics do not sing Christmas hymns, or use Christmas readings, in Mass until December 25th, the first day of the Christmas season.

ON THE WAY TO MASS NEXT SUNDAY

How can we prepare the Way of the Lord?