

IN THE WAITING - ADVENT



First Week of Advent

MASS TIMES

WEEKENDS

SATURDAY 5:00PM

SUNDAY 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 7:00PM

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM

Advent is upon us. This weekend we will celebrate the start of a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. When we arrive at Mass we will notice a shift...a shift in colour, a shift in the music, and a shift in the Readings. You will also notice a shift in the title of this little reflection, we are now “In the waiting”.

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at different ways to experience Advent. This week we are looking at Advent as a whole, next week we will talk about a few saints whose feast days fall in Advent, the third week of Advent we will be hearing about the O Antiphons, and the last week we will be sending you a daily video.

From the Latin, ad-venire meaning “to come to.” Advent is the time of preparation leading up to Christmas. It is a time to ready our hearts and minds for Christ’s second coming at the end of time and for the anniversary of his birth on Christmas. We do not know when the second coming will be, our scripture readings during this season encourage us to focus **not on the when**, but on being **prepared for when** that time comes.

Advent has some similarities to the Lenten season – both have an element of penance, generosity, and taking time to focus on our spiritual lives. Both season’s colour is purple – the purple (or violet if we are being specific) for Advent reminds us of royalty as we prepare for our King to come into the world. It is also the colour of preparation, it is a visual sign to us that something different is about to happen so we need to focus and be ready for it. We will notice that the priests will also wear violet vestments (and rose on Gaudete, the third Sunday of Advent).

We will hear a change in the music, the songs will have a tone of longing and calling on Christ to come, songs like “O Come Divine Messiah” and “O Come, O come, Emmanuel” are examples of that tone. Another difference in the music is that we will not be singing the Gloria. The Gloria itself is the song of the Angels rejoicing in the Messiah coming into the world, in Advent we are anticipating the time when Christ returns so we do not sing this song of celebration.

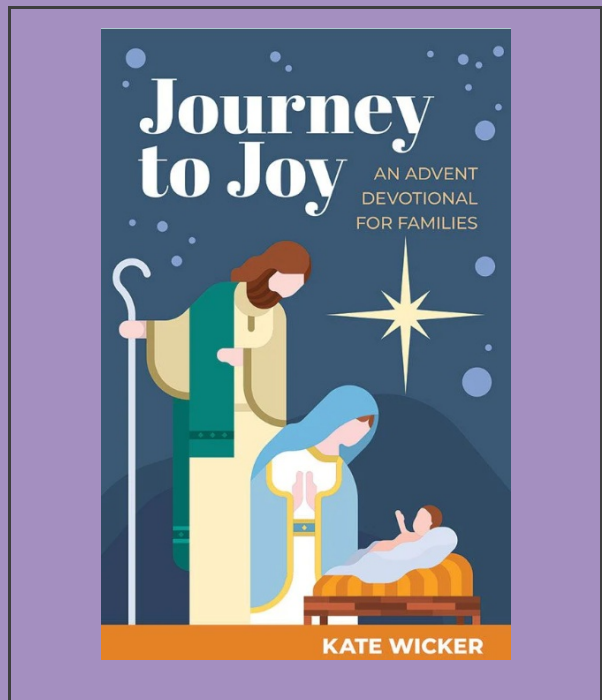
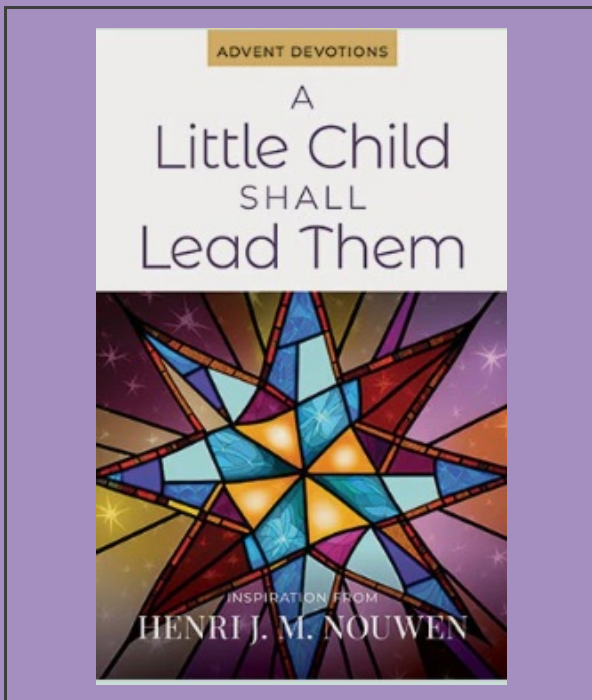


For the past year we have heard from the Gospel of Matthew. *In this liturgical year we will hear from Mark's Gospel.* This Gospel was the first written and is also the shortest. Mark gives us the information we need to know as concisely as possible with the primary focus being that Jesus is the Son of God. During Advent the Gospels are calling us to be awake and get ourselves ready for the coming of the Messiah.



There are many devotions that help us through this time of waiting and preparation. The practice of prayer using the **Advent Wreath** is one of my favourite ways to journey through Advent. The four candles mark the four Sundays of Advent, the colours of the candles (violet, violet, rose, and violet– in that order) are the same colours we will see at church. There is the **Jesse Tree** that takes a look at our salvation history from creation to the birth of Jesus. In the secular word there are Advent Calendars that count down the days to Christmas– usually with a little chocolate behind each door.

Each of these practices are asking us to be patient, to not get ahead of ourselves, but experience each day as we are waiting the Messiah. It wouldn't do us any good to light all four candles on our wreath on that first Sunday, or hang every decoration of the Jesse tree in one day, or eat all those little chocolates in our Advent Calendar in one sitting...we are being asked to wait, to embrace the season and experience it in its fullness because **it is in the waiting that we are transformed.**





Holy Spirit Parish

ADVENT MUSIC & PRAYER

AN EVENING OF MUSIC, PRAYER, &
REFLECTION

Music led by Spirit of the Cross
Reflection by Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor

TUES DEC 12 6:30-7:30PM

SIGN UP IN PLACE OF WELCOME OR PARISH
WEBSITE

WWW.HOLYSPIRITSASKATOON.CA



ADVENT

Penitential Service

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 13**

7PM

holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

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