

TALKING ABOUT ADVENT >>>

Advent is the first season of the Church year. It is four weeks of preparing and waiting for the celebration of Christmas. The Church reminds us to take a step back during these weeks and recall the longings of those who waited for God to fulfill his promise of a Savior.

God's Word



Read **Isaiah 35:1–6**, to learn how Isaiah gave the Israelites hope of God's promise to bring them home and to save them.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Advent

- Most children this age find waiting difficult. An Advent calendar is one way to help children get into the spirit of Advent waiting.
- Typically analogies help children this age understand what the season is about. To help your child get a sense of the season, use examples of waiting from their own experience, such as waiting for a special visitor.
- Sometimes the stimulation of preparing for Christmas can lead young children to excitability, whining, or other negative behaviors. Children (and adults) will respond well to quiet times of reflection and prayer using the psalms from the Sundays of Advent.



FEASTS OF THE SEASON >>>

Feast of Saint Nicholas

December 6

Legends abound about a bishop born in the third century who used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering without wanting anything in return. Christmas gifts and seasonal contributions to charity reflect Saint Nicholas' unselfish concern for others. European immigrants brought these Christmas customs to America.

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



Say this prayer to bless your Advent wreath.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, pour forth your blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and receive from you many blessings. (Sprinkle the wreath with holy water in the form of a cross. Have your child make the Sign of the Cross along with you.) Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.