

LITURGY BYTES

Advent Bits & Pieces



In addition to the change of color in the church and the Advent wreath adorning the left side of the Sanctuary here at Holy Cross, there are a few other interesting tidbits about this special season.

A popular tradition during the Advent season is the Jesse Tree. This tree, named for the father of David, is one that is decorated throughout the Advent season with symbols of biblical people who are historically associated with or came before the birth of Jesus. It includes people like Abraham, Noah, Moses, Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist, to name a few. These folks are represented by symbols associated with them in Scripture and hung on the tree as Jesus' ancestors who waited for the birth of their Savior.

Another tradition to look for is in the third week of Advent when the color changes to pink. It is referred to as Gaudete Sunday which means joy. The third candle on the Advent wreath, which is pink, is lit this week. Rose colored vestments are worn, and the Scriptures all relate to John the Baptist. A sense of the nearness of Christmas forms in our hearts and minds even more. We are joyful that Christmas is almost here!

Last, but not least, our Lady plays a very important role in the Advent season. We have her feast day December 8th—the Immaculate Conception—and on December 12th we honor her under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. She is mentioned in Scripture from the moment of her “Yes.” She always points toward her Son, but Advent is an excellent time for us to also see the relationship of Mary with her Son. So, as the weeks are flying by, let us pray: Come Lord Jesus, we need you!

Have a joy-filled, blessed, healthy and safe week ahead! ~*Michele Hall*