

LITURGY BYTES

We Have a New Year

This weekend we begin a new year in the Church's calendar with the season of anticipation and waiting..... It's Advent once again! Our color changes to purple, we have a special wreath displayed in the Sanctuary with three purple and one pink candle marking off the weeks before Christmas. This year, this special season is a bit shorter because the 4th Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve!



Many people ask about the origins of the Advent wreath. It began as a German custom back in the 1800s. It came to our country in the 1920s and '30s. As time went on, many households duplicated their own version of the Advent wreath for their families. A weekly lighting of the candle, a short prayer, and a reminder of what Advent was all about—waiting for the coming of Jesus.

Even though the color purple is used on priests' vestments and on banners, it is not meant to be a penitential season like that of Lent. It is directed more toward being patient and anticipating Christmas with Jesus' birth, who is the Light of the World! It is to redirect us from the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping to a sense of peace. The more candles we light, the more light we have reminding us that Christmas is near. A wonderful thought is to embrace how we can individually bring that light here to all we meet. How will we reflect His light this year?

Have a prayerful, beaming & peaceful week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*