

Pope John Paul II Award
Monthly Meeting
December



Theme:
Advent

Advent

Emmanuel: God with Us
Celebrating God's Closeness to us in every
moment

Opening Prayer:

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.

Ice breaker:

Would you rather

Input: Advent

Advent is the season that helps us get ready for Christmas, but it's more than just counting down the days until presents and holiday fun. It's a time to slow down, prepare our hearts, and focus on the real meaning of Christmas—Jesus coming into the world. During Advent, we remember that people waited a long time for the Savior, and we also remind ourselves that we're waiting for Jesus to come again. The candles on the Advent wreath—hope, peace, joy, and love—show us what this season is really about. For teenagers, Advent is an invitation to pause in the middle of busy schedules, make space for prayer, and look for ways to bring light and kindness to others.

The Advent wreath

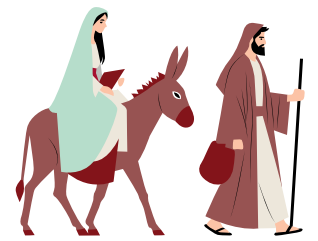
The Advent wreath is a circular wreath made of evergreen branches that Christians use during the season of Advent to help prepare for Christmas. The circle shape reminds us of God's endless love, and the evergreens symbolize hope and eternal life. The wreath holds four candles—three purple and one pink—plus sometimes a white candle in the center. Each week of Advent, one candle is lit to mark the countdown to Christmas: the purple candles stand for hope, peace, and love, and the pink candle stands for joy. If there's a white candle in the middle, it's lit on Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Week 1: The Prophecy Candle The first purple candle symbolizes hope and God's forgiveness toward man. It also can symbolize the expectation of the coming of the Messiah.

Week 2: The Bethlehem Candle The second purple candle symbolizes faith and reminds Catholics about the experience of Joseph and Mary in the city of Bethlehem.

Week 3: The Shepherd's Candle The third candle which is pink or rose, represents Gaudette Sunday and the joy that the birth of Christ brought to the world.

Week 4: The Angel's Candle The last purple candle is the Angel's Candle and represents the peace and justice that the angels and Christ brings to the world.



Check in with Activities

Check in with how everyone is getting on so far. Check cards to see they are being filled in and completed.

Advent wordsearch

Closing Prayer

God our Father,
Saint John Paul II tells us to trust Christ;
To listen attentively to his teachings,
To fix our eyes on his face,
To persevere in listening to his Word,
To allow him to focus our search and our aspirations and all our ideas and the desires of our heart.

Help us God our Father,
to do this so that all the actions
and decisions of our lives are done with Jesus
who is our Saviour and friend for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Lady of Knock pray for us, and for the young people of Ireland.

Refreshments

