

## Ritual for Lighting Advent Wreath

Mike Keller will rehearse the responsorial psalm a couple of minutes earlier than usual and right after that Mike (at 7 am, Lector) will read an introduction to the lighting of the candle and then, after the family lights the candle, the assembly will pray the prayer that will be on a slide from LVP. Display "header slide" while the introduction is read.

**Please note: There will not be a family lighting the wreath at the 7 am and 12 noon Masses. The candle(s) will be lit earlier by the sacristan/other. At those Masses, proceed directly from the introduction to the prayer.**

### WEEK ONE: HOPE

**Introduction:** (to be read by Mike Keller *or 7 am Lector*)

The first candle on the Advent wreath symbolizes hope. Hope, along with faith and love, is one of the three great virtues. Advent is a good time to do small acts of kindness and generosity that bring hope to others.

#### **PRAYER (to go on a slide to be read by all those attending mass)**

Loving God, help us begin Advent well. This week we especially ask for the gift of hope. Help us to share our hope with all those we meet. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

### WEEK TWO: PEACE

**Introduction:** (to be read by Mike Keller *or 7 am Lector*)

This second candle on the Advent wreath symbolizes peace. It reminds us that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is the source of true and lasting peace in the world and in our lives.

#### **PRAYER (to go on a slide to be read by all those attending mass):**

Lord Jesus, as an infant you slept in heavenly peace under the loving watch of Mary and Joseph. Help us to be kind to one another as we seek to make our world a more peaceful place. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

### WEEK THREE: JOY

**Introduction:** (to be read by Mike Keller *or 7 am Lector*)

The pink candle on the Advent wreath is for the third Sunday of Advent. It represents joy. When the angels announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds, at first the shepherds were afraid. But their fear soon turned into rejoicing. We, too, should be happy, because Christmas will be here soon!

#### **PRAYER (to go on a slide to be read by all those attending mass):**

Loving Father, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son. Help us to be joyful and to spread our joy to those around us. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

### WEEK FOUR: LOVE

**Introduction:** (to be read by Mike Keller *or 7 am Lector*)

During this last week of Advent, we reflect on God's great love for us. When we love others, we want to do what is best for them. We want their happiness just as we want our own. As St. John reminds us, God is love.

#### **PRAYER (to go on a slide to be read by all those attending mass):**

O God, you show us your love through the actions of those who bring joy to our lives. May we, too, help spread your love to everyone we meet. Amen.