

St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral  
Advent Box 2020

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH  
ADVENT WREATH DIRECTIONS

There are five elements to the wreath:

- 1) base
- 2) candleholders
- 3) greens
- 4) candles
- 5) ribbons/decorations

- The Advent Wreath is made in a circle, a symbol of eternity, and a reminder that God has no beginning nor end.
- Evergreens are used to decorate your wreath. The ever-green is ever-alive – a symbol of resurrected life.
- Using holly in your wreath is a reminder of the crown of thorns.
- Pine cones, seeds, nuts, or seedpods can be used to symbolize eternal life.

At the Cathedral, we use four blue candles in our Advent wreath, as blue was the color used in the church before the 12th Century. Shades of blue symbolize royalty, the coming of the King, hope, the night sky before the dawn, the sea before creation, and Mary.

**\*Light the first Advent candle. Please see the Advent Wreath Guide for more information.**

**Week One: Preparing the Way**

Advent is a season of hopeful anticipation of God's breaking into our world and our time. During Advent, we prepare the way for Jesus, and this week we are going to practicing preparing. Feel free to utilize these activities at your family's convenience. You may choose to do them all at once, or one each day, or just a few from this week.

**Day Two: Cleaning Out**

Did you know that the first Sunday in Advent begins a new year in the life of the church? We start all over in Advent. It is like getting a clean slate. Today, help your family clean up something. You could pick up your toys, clean your room, help do the dishes, or even take out the trash. What can you help clean?

**Day Three: Prepare the Crèche**

Today, decide where you are going to put your crèche (Nativity set) within your home. Make sure to hide the baby Jesus! Also, put the Wise Men somewhere in the East side of your home. Don't forget to move them a little closer each Sunday.

#### Day Four: Make a List

Make a list of all the people you would like to give a present during the season of Christmas. Consider buying a present for a child on our Angel Tree, or visiting someone on our Clarence Tree.

#### Day Five: Giving Away

Pick out a toy you do not play with anymore and give it away to someone (or an organization) who is in need this season of the year. The Good Samaritan Center is always in need!

#### Day Six: Prepare Your Heart

We have so much to be thankful for, but sometimes we forget. Today, list five things you are thankful for in your life.

#### Day Seven: Toy for Tots

Sunday, December 6th is the Feast of St. Nicholas. Usually, we ask each child to bring a toy to donate to Toys for Tots. Consider buying a Toy to donate to Toys for Tots, or some other organization. Drop off centers are located around town and can be found online.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

St. Nicholas of Myra will make a special visit on The Children's Moment this Sunday.

You can watch at [www.standrews.ms/vicarandy](http://www.standrews.ms/vicarandy)

***As part of this visit, there are gold coins inside the red velvet bag. Please put them inside your child's shoes. You may also want to put an orange.***

#### **Saint Nicholas Ornament Activity**

Saint Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra, a city on the southern coast of modern-day Turkey. He inherited a large fortune, and he decided to use this money to help the many people he saw around him who were in need. He also decided to perform these acts of charity quietly, even secretly, and not to brag about them. As you create the Saint Nicholas ornament, talk about what acts of charity your family could do during this season of Advent.

**\*Light the Second Advent Candle.**

**More information in your Advent Wreath Guide.**

## Week Two: The Spirit of Saint Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Saint Nicholas of Myra, who was born during the third century in what is modern day "Turkey". His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, and his love for children.

This week's activities are centered on practicing some of the virtues that St. Nicholas excelled in – generosity, charity, and care for the vulnerable.

### Day Nine: Coins

Give away some coins in one of the red kettle buckets which are collecting for families in need.

### Day Ten: Send a Card

Make a card and send it to a friend, or loved one, who may need cheering up.

### Day Eleven: Hot Chocolate

Share hot chocolate, or hot tea, or a cookie and milk, with someone you love.

### Day Twelve: The Meaning of Christmas

Take a few moments to remember what Christmas is really about by watching this video of Linus. See if you notice what Linus does when talking about the true meaning of Christmas.

<http://bit.ly/adventure26>

### Day Thirteen: Movie Night

Watch a movie with your family. Some suggestions: 1) The Muppet Christmas Carol, 2) A Christmas Carol, 3) Klaus

### Day Fourteen: Bake a Gift

Bake a batch of your favorite cookies (or buy some of your favorite cookies) and take them to neighbor.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH STIR IT UP SUNDAY

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as "Stir it up Sunday". The collect for today begins "Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us..." Traditionally, English families would bake a Christmas pudding on this Sunday, and each family member would get to take a turn stirring. If you have the time, maybe your family could bake a special treat together this day.

### **Stir It Up Ornament**

- 1) Take the clear flat ornament, and carefully remove the top.
- 2) With a kitchen funnel, pour in the bag of prepared glitter and snow. You are welcome to add any other accoutrements you have at your home.
- 3) Put the top back on the ornament.
- 4) Carefully shake (stir) it up!
- 5) Hang your stir it up ornament on the tree!

**\*Light the Third Advent Candle.**

**More information in your Advent Wreath Guide.**

## WEEK THREE: THE FAMILY OF JESUS

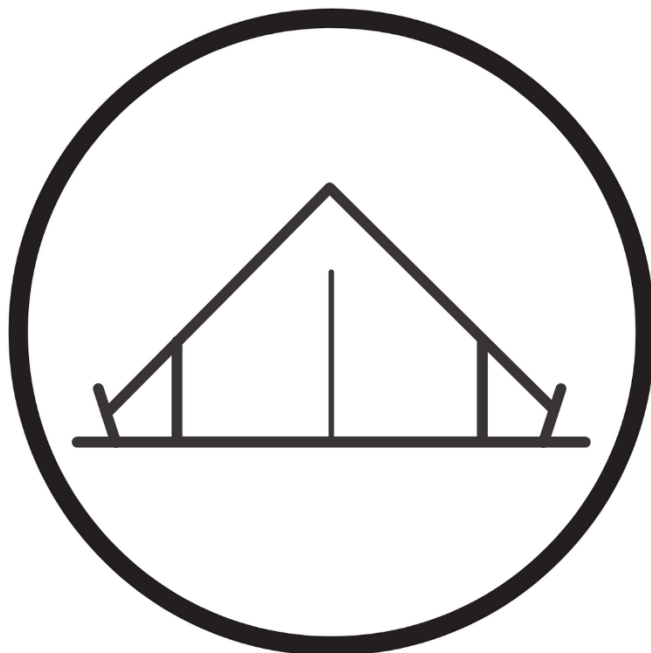
The name "Jesse Tree" comes from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." Jesse is the father of King David, and the savior was to come from David's family line. The Jesse Tree, a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, represents the family tree of Jesus.

Traditionally, beginning on the first day of Advent, a family would read a Bible story relating to God's people and Jesus' family, starting with Creation and ending with the Birth of Christ. An ornament would be placed on a Jesse Tree after each day's story. Each year a family would read different parts of the story and create all new ornaments. This is why you may find different lists of ornaments for a Jesse Tree.

For the third week of Advent, we have provided a few of the stories from the Jesse Tree. Each day there is a Bible story to read, and ornaments to cut out and decorate for your tree. You could color them with crayons or markers. You could even paint them. Once you have decorated the ornament, poke a hole in the paper and make a loop with the string provided. You could hang them on your tree, or you could make a small tree just for these ornaments. We hope you enjoy learning about Jesus' family!

Ornament: Abraham and Sarah  
Read: Genesis 18:9-14

WEEK THREE  
ADVENT DAY SIXTEEN



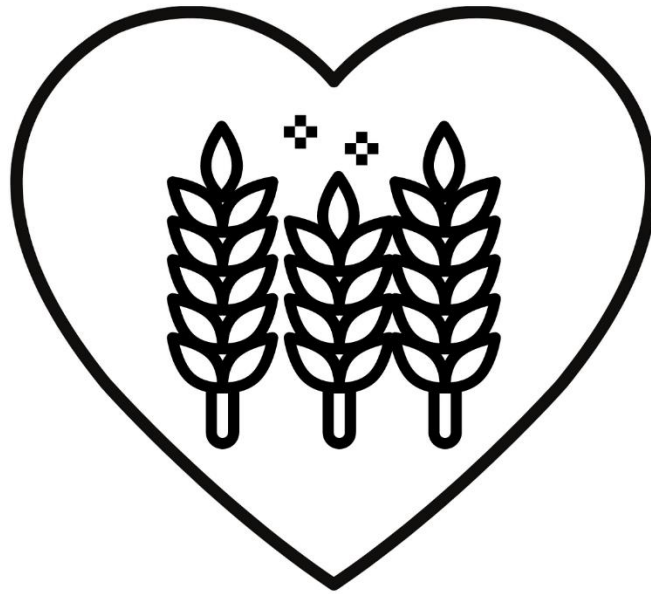
Ornament: Jacob and Rachel  
Read: Genesis 28:10-17 and Genesis 29:9-12

WEEK THREE  
ADVENT DAY SEVENTEEN



Ornament: Ruth  
Read: Ruth 2:1-9

WEEK THREE  
ADVENT DAY EIGHTEEN



Ornament: Jesse  
Read: Isaiah 11:1

WEEK THREE  
ADVENT DAY NINETEEN



Ornament: David  
Read: 1 Samuel 16:17-18

WEEK THREE  
ADVENT DAY TWENTY





Ornament: Elizabeth and John the Baptist  
Read: Luke 1:39-45 and Matthew 3:1-6

WEEK THREE  
ADVENT DAY TWENTY-ONE



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH LAST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### **Christmas Eve**

Make plans to join us for a Christmas Eve Street Party/Service at 3:00p.m. on Capitol Street. It is a kid friendly service with a hot chocolate bar!

### **Mary and Joseph Ornament**

- 1) This ornament is the last set of the Jesse Tree. Read Luke 2:1-20
- 2) Trace the nativity outline onto the wooden ornament.
- 3) Color in the nativity scene and decorate the ornament.
- 4) Find a spot for your Mary and Joseph ornament on the tree.

**\*Light the Fourth Advent Candle.**  
**More information in your Advent Wreath Guide.**



WEEK FOUR: MAKE READY THE FEAST  
ADVENT DAY TWENTY-THREE

**5 Minute Easy Chocolate Bark**



Ingredients:

- 1) 1 11-12 ounce bag of white, dark, milk, or semi-sweet chocolate chips (about 2 cups)
- 2) 1 tablespoon of vegetable shortening or vegetable oil
- 3) Various toppings see ideas in directions

Instructions:

- 1. Line a 10x15 - inch pan or cookie sheet with wax paper
- 2. Place chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl. It may be helpful to use a disposable paper bowl or re-usable plastic container for best results. Add shortening or oil. Heat chocolate chips on 50% power in 30 second increments, stirring between each, until melted and smooth.
- 3. Spread chocolate into an even layer on a prepared pan. Top with desired toppings. Chill to set and then break into pieces. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.
- 4. Topping ideas: chopped candy canes, M&Ms, Oreos, peanut butter cups, toffee, or pretzels.

WEEK FOUR: MAKE READY THE FEAST  
ADVENT DAY TWENTY-FOUR

**Reindeer Sandwiches**

Instructions:

- 1. Make a regular Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich, or a sandwich of your choosing.
- 2. Use a heart shaped cookie to cut out the reindeer head.
- 3. Add two small twisted pretzels by pushing them into the top of the heart to make the two antlers.
- 4. Now add two chocolate chips for eyes and a red M&M for a nose.



WEEK FOUR: MAKE READY THE FEAST  
ADVENT DAY TWENTY-FIVE

**Grinch Fruit Kabobs**

Ingredients:

1. Mini-marshmallows
2. Strawberries, halved horizontally (make them look like a Santa hat)
3. Banana slices
4. Green seedless grapes
5. Toothpicks

Directions:

1. Slide one grape to the bottom of the toothpick.
2. Slice a banana slice down
3. Next, slide in strawberry - cut side down
4. Top with a mini-marshmallow



WEEK FOUR: MAKE READY THE FEAST  
ADVENT DAY TWENTY-SIX

**Santa Crunch Popcorn**

Directions

1. Start with 10 cups of popped popcorn. As best you can, remove all unpopped kernels.
2. Salt liberally.
3. Melt 3 tablespoons of butter in a medium sauce pan.
4. Once the butter is melted, add 3 cups of mini-marshmallows
5. Stir until marshmallows are melted. Then turn off the heat.
6. Spread popcorn on a cookie sheet covered with parchment, foil, or silpat liner.
7. Pour melted marshmallow mixture over the popcorn and gently fold the popcorn with a spoon.
8. Quickly add red and green M&Ms (or whatever candy you like)
9. Let cool. Break apart to serve. Eat it all up quickly - it does not store well!

