

ORDER OF BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH WITHIN MASS

INTRODUCTION

WHEN THE ADVENT WREATH IS USED IN CHURCH, IT SHOULD BE OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO BE VISIBLE TO THE CONGREGATION. IT MAY BE SUSPENDED FROM THE CEILING OR PLACED ON A STAND. IF IT IS PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY OR PRESBYTERIUM, IT SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY, NOR SHOULD IT OBSCURE THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THE ALTAR, LECTERN (AMBO), OR CHAIR.

AFTER THE GOSPEL READING, THE CELEBRANT IN THE HOMILY, BASED ON THE SACRED TEXT AND PERTINENT TO THE PARTICULAR PLACE AND THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, EXPLAINS THE MEANING OF THE CELEBRATION.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER, OR GENERAL INTERCESSIONS, FOLLOWS, IN THE USUAL FORM OR IN THE FORM PROVIDED HERE. THE CELEBRANT CONCLUDES THE INTERCESSIONS WITH THE PRAYER OF BLESSING. FROM THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS THOSE BEST FOR THE OCCASION MAY BE USED OR ADAPTED, OR OTHER INTENTIONS THAT APPLY TO THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE COMPOSED.

THE CELEBRANT SAYS:

As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, dear brothers and sisters, let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy, that, as he came into the world to bring the good news to the poor and heal the contrite heart, so in our own time, also, he may bring salvation to all I need.

THE ASSISTING MINISTER SAYS THE INTENTION:

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,
we pray to the Lord. AND THE PEOPLE RESPOND: Amen.

ASSISTING MINISTER:

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,
we pray to the Lord. AND THE PEOPLE RESPOND: Amen.

ASSISTING MINISTER:

That this wreath
may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,
we pray to the Lord. AND THE PEOPLE RESPOND: Amen.

ASSISTING MINISTER:

That the coming Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy
as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,
we pray to the Lord.

AND THE PEOPLE RESPOND: Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

WITH HANDS OUTSTRETCHED, THE CELEBRANT SAYS THE BLESSING PRAYER:

**Lord God,
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,
who enlightens our hearts
and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.
Pour forth your blessings upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ,
who is Lord, for ever and ever. R. Amen.**

OR:

**Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.
Let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and without delay.**

Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

THEN THE FIRST CANDLE IS LIGHTED.

ON SUBSEQUENT SUNDAYS OF ADVENT, THE APPROPRIATE CANDLES ARE LIGHTED BEFORE MASS BEGINS OR IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE OPENING PRAYER, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL RITES OR PRAYERS.

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