



Preparing for Advent

The Season of Advent



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4. Spiritual Preparation



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Symbols: Advent candles, empty crib, Isaiah, St. John the Baptist



Advent Parables



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The Parable of the Fig Tree (Matthew 24:32-35)

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- Know the signs



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- Will it be ready when Lord returns?

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The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)

- Be prepared
- Be watchful

Advent Devotions

Advent Wreath



Nativity Scene



Advent Calendar



Jesse Tree



Advent Wreath & Candles



Advent Wreath & Candles

Symbolism

- *Circular Shape* –eternity
- *Greenery* – hope and renewal
- *Four Candles* – four weeks of Advent, and metaphorically the four thousand years between Adam and Christ.



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- Rejoicing for arriving at midpoint of Advent



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Christmas

- Candles replaced with one white candle representing the arrival of Christ.

Advent Calendar



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Purpose

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Structure

- Not really "Advent" as much as "December" – always starts on December 1.



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Empty Crib or Not Empty Crib?

- Each family decides



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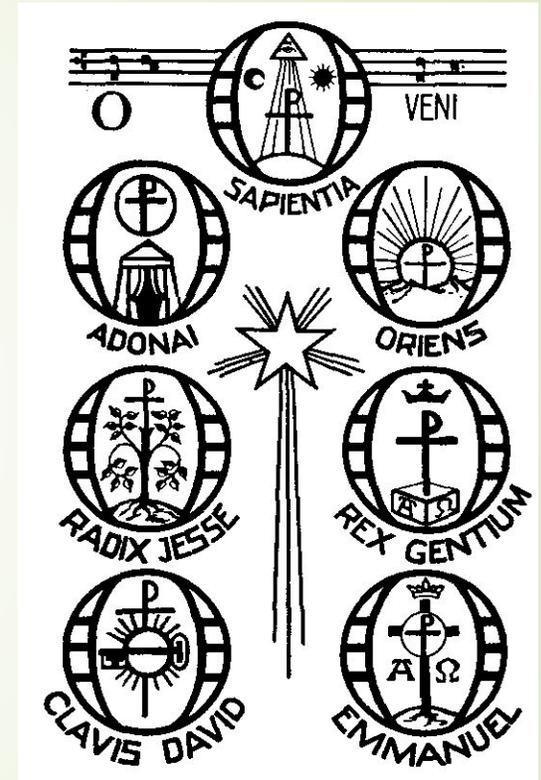
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Symbols

- Each day is a symbol which represents the person on the tree.
- **Apple:** Adam and Eve
- **Stars:** Abraham
- **Ladder:** Jacob
- **Raven:** Elijah

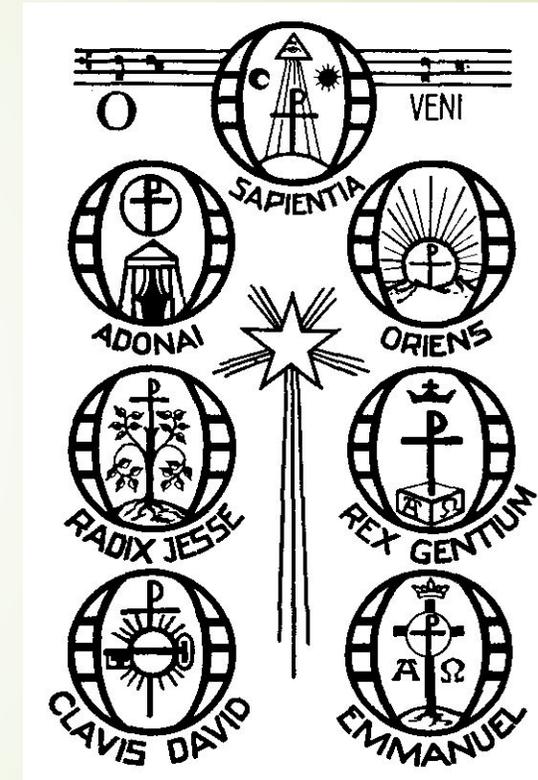


O Antiphons



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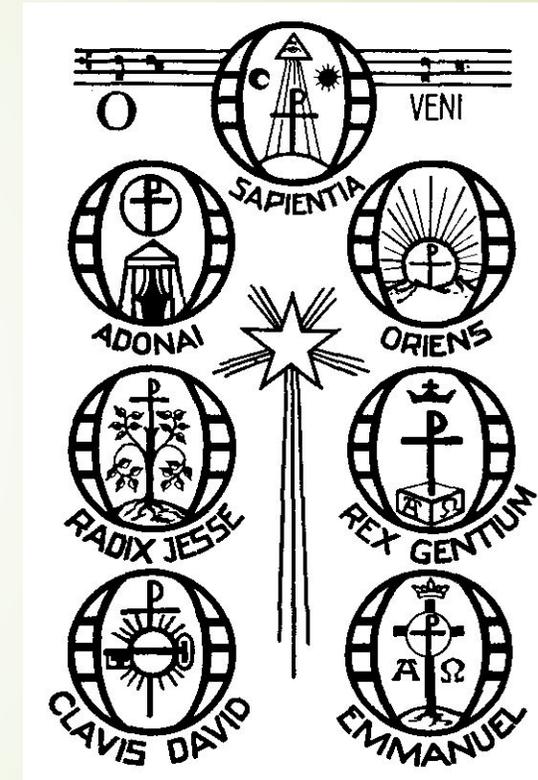
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1. **Emmanuel** – God with us (Isaiah 7:14)
2. **Rex Gentium** – King of All Nations (Isaiah 9:7)
3. **Oriens** – Radiant Dawn (Isaiah 9:2)
4. **Clavis David** – Key of David (Isaiah 22:22)
5. **Radix Jesse** – Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1)
6. **Adonai** – Lord of Israel (Isaiah 11:4-5)
7. **Sapientia** – Wisdom (Isaiah 11:2-3)





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3. Remember that Christ came 2,000 years ago.
4. Invite Christ to come into your life today.
5. Prepare for His Coming at the end of time.