

MEANINGS OF THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH



Over the centuries of the early Roman Catholic Church, a popular tradition arose of naming each of the candles of the seasonal Advent wreath.

For example, the first purple candle (lit on the First Sunday of Advent) is called the *prophet's candle* and symbolizes **hope**. “Prophet” refers to Isaiah who foresaw the coming of the Messiah.

The second purple candle (lit on the Second Sunday of Advent) is called the *Bethlehem candle*, and symbolizes **faith** or preparation, as people prepare for the coming of Jesus, who was originally born in the small village of Bethlehem.

The third pink candle (lit on the Third Sunday of Advent) is called the *shepherd's candle* and symbolizes the **joy** which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born.

The fourth purple candle (lit on the Fourth Sunday of Advent) is called the *angel's candle* and symbolizes **peace** or the love for which Jesus came to Earth to bring about our salvation.

In time, some faith communities added a fifth candle (lit on Christmas Eve and throughout the Christmas Season) called the *Christ's (or Christus) candle*.