

Missions Prayers

For each week of ADVENT

[Click HERE](#) to access a virtual Advent Wreath you can light each week. Remember to go back each week

“WE MUST PRAY, NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR THE WORLD”



Week 1: Light the first purple candle.
The first **PURPLE** candle represents **HOPE**.

Father in Heaven, we need the warmth of your love in our hearts and the light of your Word in our minds. Help us to grow in our faith so that we will be prepared and filled with hope when Jesus comes. In our own little way, help us to bring hope to children who are afraid, sad or alone. We ask you to bring them hope for tomorrow. Through us, shine your light of Hope upon them.

Amen.

Week 2: Light the second purple candle.
This **PURPLE** candle represents **PEACE**.

Father in Heaven, very soon the birth of your Son, Jesus will light up the world. May his quiet coming bring us true inner peace. Dear God, help us to bring peace to those around us. Look after children who live with conflict at home, at school and in their country. Help us to throw your blanket of peace around their shoulders and comfort them with our friendship.

Amen.

Week 3: Light the only pink candle.
This **PINK** candle represents **JOY**.

Father in Heaven, we know that you love all of your people. Your love brings the gift of joy to our hearts. We think of all the unhappy children in the world today. We ask you to bring a little joy to their hearts this Christmas and we hope that someone can provide for all their needs. Thank you for the joy we feel as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Amen.

Week 4: Light the third purple candle.
The third **PURPLE** candle represents **LOVE**.

Father in Heaven, bless our families and bring us the spirit of understanding and love. May our homes be places of peace and laughter and may your love shine from our eyes. In everything we do and say, help us to show love to others. Today we ask your blessing on our circle of love and prayer. Keep us forever safe in the warmth of your love.

Amen.



Christmas/Advent around the World

Americas

From December 16 to Christmas Eve, children in Mexico and many Latin American countries perform the “Posada” procession. Posada is Spanish for inn or lodging. There are nine Posadas. These celebrate the part of the Christmas story where Joseph and Mary looked for a room in the inn. Children carry candles and a board holding painted figures of Mary and Joseph. They go from house to house and sing a song at each home.

The song they sing is about Joseph and Mary asking for a room – like the journey of that first Christmas Eve. Eventually the children find a home that welcomes them in! They say prayers of thanks, and have a party with food, games and fireworks. At the final Posada on Christmas Eve, a manger and figures of shepherds are added to the board. When the Posada house has been found, a baby Jesus is put into the manger, and then families go to midnight Mass.



Europe

In many countries in Europe, Missionary Children celebrate advent by going from house to house, supervised by adults, singing carols. Three children dress as the Wise Men and follow a child carrying the Star of Bethlehem, who knocks on the door of the house. In this way, the children proclaim the Good News of Jesus’ birth and at the same time raise funds to send to poor children through the Missionary Childhood Association. This year, for example, the group recites the blessing outside the windows of the house and collect the offerings with a fishing net or through bank cards rather than in a piggy bank!



Africa

Many kids in Africa will dress up in costumes and put on a play for adults. The costumes are very colorful, and the play has a lot of music and dancing part. Everyone has a good time. Kids use the play to teach adults what they have learn about Jesus and proclaim the Good News!

