

PRAYERS AROUND THE ADVENT WREATH

Mathew J. Kessler, CSsR



Liguori

ONE LIGUORI DRIVE
LIGUORI MO 63057-9999

Liguori Publications • © 2016 All rights reserved.

Liguori.org • 800-325-9521

Imprimi Potest:
Harry Grile, CSsR, Provincial
Denver Province, The Redemptorists

Published by Liguori Publications
Liguori, Missouri 63057

To order, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521

Copyright © 2014 Liguori Publications

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications.

p ISBN 978-0-7648-2494-4
e ISBN 978-0-7648-6940-2

Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com.

Printed in the United States of America
18 17 16 15 14 / 5 4 3 2 1
First Edition

Liguori Publications • © 2016 All rights reserved.
Liguori.org • 800-325-9521

Prayers Around the Advent Wreath

Mathew J. Kessler, CSsR

Of all the seasons of the liturgical year Advent stands out as the one season that grows in anticipation. The expectation of the arrival of the Christ child in our midst is reason for rejoicing and preparation. We rejoice because his life gives us reason to hope that God's plans do bear fruit. We prepare because we must do our part in making time and space for Christ.

Using these prayers is simple: Light the Advent wreath each day and say the prayer.

Liguori Publications • ©2016 All rights reserved.

Liguori.org • 800-325-9521

First Week of Advent

Advent links its mood and orientation to the moments of dawn. To experience the early dawn is to wait for the sun's rays to illuminate the things around us. The culmination of the season in the joy of the birth of the Christ child and the Magi acknowledging him as Lord of heaven and earth gives us pause to reflect on the gift of God's own life that leads to our salvation. In these weeks the Scriptures draw heavily on the images and words of Isaiah and others who tell us of the God who brings forth life.

Sunday

O Lord, the prophets called the people of Israel to return to you when they had wandered astray. Like their ancestors they were summoned to believe that your mighty works would continue in their midst. Help us to awaken to the

prophets today who remind us of your friendship and who challenge us to seek justice and peace all our days. Amen.

Monday

O Lord, your people desire that place where they find a home. Stay with your people on their pilgrimage through life. Give them the courage to turn your words of hope into works of charity and bring to all peoples the comfort and support they desire. Amen.

Tuesday

O Lord, you bless us with your presence and you offer life where we only see death. As Isaiah your prophet promises, where enemies have fought friendships will be formed, when the poor suffer affliction they will find release from their condition. Share your grace with us and through it may life blossom in the world this day. Amen.

Wednesday

O Lord, Jesus cured the sick and fed the hungry. May your kingdom come to the poor and hungry, lame and sick today, healing them and restoring their dignity, increasing the number who come to you as the provider of all that is needed. Amen.

Thursday

O Lord, you formed a people in your image and led them to the land of plenty. In times of peril you came to their aid through the prophets who announced the coming of a new day. Gather us together in these days to once again hear your word and meditate on it, so that we may live with firm purpose in our calling to raise the poor and abandoned to the dignity and life that are theirs. Amen.

Friday

O Lord, from the time of Abraham you have loved your people even though they sinned. Your forgiveness touches our innermost thoughts that lead us astray. Be with us today as we live our baptismal faith bringing the good news of Jesus to every corner of life where darkness remains. Amen.

Saturday

O Lord, Jesus brought healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed; he liberated those who were bound by sin or oppression. All this he did in the name of the kingdom of heaven. Your Church is the sign in the world of your healing touch, and continues what Jesus began. Show us the way to bring to the hurting and lost your compassion and presence so that your kingdom may again produce a rich harvest. Amen.

Second Week of Advent

Advent invites us to look to the future while hearing words from the past. The God who brought Abraham and Sarah from Ur and set them on a course that would blossom into the people of God is the God who works among us today. It is clear that, like Abraham and Sarah, we must be open to receive the Lord's invitation to live with the values of the kingdom of God and practice forgiveness, create community, and pursue justice.

Sunday

O Lord, you chose man and woman to be the stewards of creation, and so they tend to the earth and its inhabitants. Yet the sins of pride and arrogance, abuse and oppression keep people estranged. Following the example of John let us end abuse, replace pride with humil-