

Encountering THE SEASON

ADVENT *for the* FAMILY

THE
FIRST WEEK
of ADVENT

LIGHT

Waiting is hard. Whether it's standing in line at an amusement park or holding out for a sweet treat, as we anxiously await our turn, we often find that the waiting takes more time than being on the ride or eating the ice-cream cone.

And yet, even when this is the case, we will still say that the ride was *amazing* and *worth it*. The two-minute thrill of the roller coaster—with our shrieks of excitement, the wind blowing through our hair, and the butterfly feeling in our stomachs—makes us forget how long we stood in the snaking line.

Advent is a lot like waiting in line. It's never easy, but it's well worth waiting for Christmas. Yes, the gifts and celebrations and special traditions are always much-anticipated points of excitement, but they aren't *the* special focus of this season.

As we light the first Advent candle on our wreaths, let us remember that this is our time to focus on waiting for someone special—and learning to wait well. Although our Savior's coming on Christmas Day sounds far off, in just a few short weeks, Christ will be here! How are you going to prepare during this time?

Challenge of the Week

As you get ready to say your prayers at bedtime, think about how you can better wait for Christ. Try writing a list of ideas that will help you throughout Advent, and ask God to help you work on these things so that you can grow in excitement for Christ's coming.

Songs of the Week

“Glory” (Matt Maher) / **“Like the Dawning”** (Advent Hymn by Fr. Frederick W. Faber) / **“Alma Redemptoris Mater”**

Prayer

O Lord, who bestowed on us your Son, keep our steps faithfully pointed toward you and our right path. This Advent, draw us closer to your glory, your will, and your way. Help us to illuminate the struggles that we may face during this time of anticipation so that we may better delight and rejoice in your coming. We ask this in your name, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Wisdom

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them, has light shined. ... You have increased [the nation's] joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.”
(Isaiah 9:2–3 RSV-2CE)

“For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).”
(Ephesians 5:8–9 RSV-2CE)