

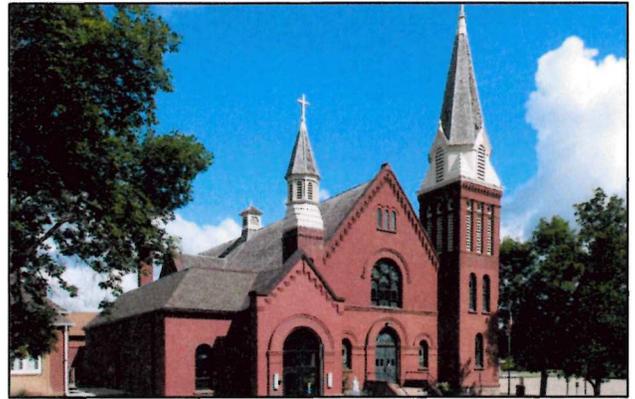
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

www.catherineofalexandria.org



MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION:

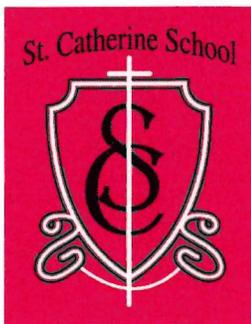
Monday - Friday 7:30 -7:50 am
Tuesday 8:15 -9:30 pm
Saturday – 4:00-4:45 pm
Sunday – 7:30-8:00 am

Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Closed from 12:00 - 12:30pm everyday

December Serving Information:

Diane Nolte is the chairperson for December.



St. Catherine School Christmas Program

Thursday, December 4th
6:30pm in the School Gym.



Please join us, everyone is welcome!!



Coffee and Rolls



Sunday, December 7th between the masses
Everyone Welcome, join us for amazing rolls, coffee and fellowship!!

November/December Calendar of Events

SUN 30	First Sunday of Advent 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass
MON 1	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 1:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study
TUE 2	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 8:30am - 10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 6:40pm KC Rosary & Meeting
WED 3	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 6:30pm Mandatory Parent Meeting - Confirmation Parents 6:30pm RE 7:00pm Youth Group
THU 4	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters 6:30pm School Christmas Program
FRI 5	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 2:00pm Mass - St Raphael
SAT 6	9:00am First Reconciliation 10:00am Mass - Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
SUN 7	Second Sunday of Advent 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 9:30am Coffee and Rolls 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading — Is 2:1-5

Second Reading — Rom 13:11-14

Gospel — Mt 24:37-44

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26;

Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

PRAYER NETWORK

Remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who are ill or are in need of our prayers:

Warren Ventch

Renita Westerhausen

Larry Doyle

Shelly Differding

Lucille Winkler

Mary Elmore

Donna Hammond

Katie Anderson

Jerry Sand

Maryjo Randle

Krystal Lemer

Daniel Gonzalez

Linda Hesch

John Snodgrass

John Kunert

Bob Wuolu

Holly Oesterle

Laine Schwehr

Liz Byrne

David Hayden

MASS INTENTIONS December 1 - 7

M 8:00am † Bernadine Ertelt Potter

T 8:00am † George Kerzman

W 8:00am † Roxanne Reed

Th 8:00am Grandchildren of Joanne Pithey

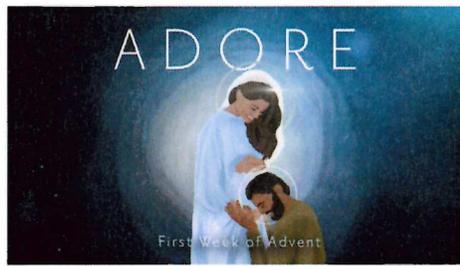
F 8:00am † Jeff Differding

2:00pm † George Kerzman

Sa 5:00pm † Helen Differding

Su 8:30am People of the Parish

10:30am † Berniece Vanorny



ADORE
Forming Catholics for Life.
Week One | Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns
Join Fr. John Burns as he journeys deeper into the theme for week one: watchfulness.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/group to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the  AMAZON INSTITUTE



Pastor's Page

ADVENT

I must admit that the annual "New Year's Day" celebration (Jan 1) has not really had much importance in my life. I've even stopped watching the ball drop in Times Square. I don't think I've ever gone to a New Year's party/celebration. For me, New Year's Day is more about the Church's celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - the octave day of Christmas (the 8th day), and holy day of obligation.

That being said . . . this weekend we begin a new year's celebration that I really do enjoy and consider important - the new liturgical year in the Church that begins with the First Sunday of Advent. I love Advent! It's a wonderful way to begin a new Church year. I guess I can't say there are any parties associated with that - but that's just fine. I just love the turning of the Church seasons and the observance of Advent that prepares us for . . . you got it - Christmas!

And that's what Advent is for - to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Take a read of the insert in this bulletin on Advent, find some simple way to "set aside" these precious few weeks in order to really take in and appreciate once again the celebration of Our Lord's birth.

(I'm writing this up on the 25th - one month from Christmas Day - and boy, what a difference one day makes! Yesterday was sunny, blue skies, warm-ish - for late November, no wind . . . today I've already done some shoveling and I'm staying in if I can!)

* * *

This past week our parish had two funerals: Bob McAllister (brother of Deacon Jim McAllister) and Bill Trader (a former parishioner of St Bernard's in Oriska who then became a member of our parish when that parish closed in the summer of '24). The funeral liturgies were special - they always are - and so were the luncheons.

I want to relate in a very public way how happy - and proud - I am of our parish's "Serving Groups". The folks that take part in them - in particular for our funeral luncheons - do a marvelous job. With two funeral luncheons in a row this past week there was some stretching to make it all happen, but the folks came through with flying colors. And this is not just a reference to the November group - all our serving groups do a wonderful job.

However . . . each month's "Serving Group" has to have a leader or leaders. At this time nine of the twelve months of the year are covered with those who are willing to take charge for that month. Which means we have three months that are still open for a person or persons to step forward and do that.

Now - I wish to make this ask very explicit. The months of March, May, and September still need a leader/leaders. I would like to ask for some folks to step forward and volunteer for those months as the person(s) in charge. (I use the plural here because it need not be only one person to do this - although we do have some of those. Most of the nine months already taken are led by two or three or even two couples.) **Please consider stepping forward and serving our parish in this way. Contact me.** It is certainly not a burden and frankly - it can be very rewarding to serve our brothers and sisters in the parish in this way.

* * *

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving week. We do have a lot to be thankful for, don't we? This parish is certainly one of those things that we all share in common with gratitude to Our Lord.

Now - on to Advent!

Fr Duchscher
Pastor



Principal's Page

Dear St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Family,

This week in our school, we continued our focus on the virtue of **generosity**, and our Saint of the Week—**Blessed Solanus Casey**—offered a powerful example of what this virtue looks like when lived out with humility and joy.

Blessed Solanus Casey was a Capuchin friar born in Wisconsin. I'll admit, I had to look up what exactly the Capuchins were known for, and I learned that their vow of poverty is taken even further than many other religious orders. It is a life of *radical simplicity*—a choice to give up nearly everything so that one's life can be poured out for others. They live among the poor, the sick, the forgotten. And yet, in that extreme poverty, Blessed Solanus was known not for what he lacked, but for what he gave. He gave his time, his patience, his prayers, his kindness, and his unwavering availability to anyone who came to him.

It struck me that generosity is not about abundance—it's about gratitude. When we are grateful, we begin to see that what we *do* have is enough to give. Blessed Solanus had very little in terms of possessions, but his heart was filled with gratitude for God's goodness, and that gratitude made him profoundly generous.

I've been reflecting on that this week.

I joked with our teachers that the three longest weeks of the year are:

1. The short week before Thanksgiving,
2. The week before Christmas break (which somehow feels like it has 30,303 days), and
3. The very last week of school.

The kids are excited, and excitement comes with... well... let's call it *creative decision-making*. The lunchroom was chaotic, recess brought its fair share of conflicts, and even my own mind felt scattered thinking about shoveling snow when I got home and how to time Thanksgiving dinner prep just right.

But in the middle of those moments—the frustrated stomach, the noise, the juggling—I intentionally stopped and asked myself: *What am I thankful for?*

And the list came quickly.

I am thankful for my family.

I am thankful for my wife.

I am thankful for this school and the privilege of walking into this building every morning.

And above all, I am thankful for our Lord, who is the reason I have so much to be grateful for in the first place.

Gratitude turns our attention from what is overwhelming to what is true. And once we recognize the goodness we have received, generosity naturally follows. When we are grateful, we see clearly that we have enough to give—even if what we offer is ourselves.

Blessed Solanus Casey lived that truth beautifully. He didn't let the simplicity of his life or the limits of his circumstances prevent him from serving. He offered what he had, and it was enough—more than enough.

If you have a moment this week, read about him. He is a reminder that the size of the gift does not measure generosity, but by the love within it.

I am grateful for this parish, and because I am thankful, I want to be generous—with my time, my energy, my leadership, and my service to this school and parish. Thank you for being a community that continually inspires me to be thankful, and therefore, to be generous.

Wishing you a blessed and restful Thanksgiving weekend.

In Christ,
Nicholas Lee

St. Catherine's Parish Team

Parish Office 845-0354

Regular Hours:

Monday 8:00am - 3:00pm
 Tuesday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm
 Closed 12:00 - 12:30pm Everyday

Pastor: Very Rev. Paul Duchschere
 e-mail: paul.duchschere@fargodiocese.org

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Joe Leitner Rev. Mr. Tom Vanorny

Parish Office Administrator: Jessica (Jess) Storhoff
 e-mail: stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Liturgy Coordinator:
 e-mail: st.catherine.liturgy.schedule@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Carol Jabs
 e-mail: stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

Lay Directors: Jeff Bopp & Rhonda Fairfield

Parish Council:

Steve Jorissen Doran Chandler
 Larissa Musgrave Mark Oberlander
 Joe Zubrod

St. Catherine School 845-1453

Principal: Nick Lee
Office Assistant: Terra Giesen

Little Saints Childcare 490-3800

Director: Beth Nadelin

Sexton: Deacon Joe Leitner 840-7429

Cemetery Gate Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Rectory 845-0725

Fax 845-0556

Nearly Nu Store 845-1022

Baptisms: Contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Contact the Pastor at least 7 months prior to the wedding.

Home Bound Eucharist: Darlene Kerzman, 701-721-1899

Bulletin Deadline: 3 PM on Wednesdays

If you have an announcement for the bulletin, please email Jess:
 stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Newcomers: WELCOME! Please register at the Parish Office or use the registration form on our website.

FINANCIAL REPORT: November 23, 2025

Regular Parish Income

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Last Week	\$8,449.75	\$10,434.62	(\$1,984.87)
Year to Date	\$198,892.14	\$219,127.02	(\$20,234.88)

Registered Families 463

Adult Envelopes	\$7,837.00
Children	\$3.00
Plate	\$609.75
Total Collection	\$8,449.75

Black and Indian Collection \$420

Thank you for your generous gifts!!

Online Giving Available @

www.catherineofalexandria.org

Prayer Quilts/Shawls Available

Some of our parishioners may be dealing with some very challenging physical, mental, spiritual or emotional situations/needs (a terminal illness, treatments, an accident, severe depression, a miscarriage) To convey the prayers & support of our parish family, Prayer Quilts/Shawls are available for all parishioners who will need them. To request a Prayer Quilt/Shawl contact: Georgia, 840-2737 or Lela, 840-8352.



Our Lord wishes for us to be whole, body, mind and soul. To be healed, to be complete. There is a group of individuals from the deanery

that are offering to pray with you, for healing. We would be willing to come to pray with you as an individual, at your home or parish church. Confidentiality is assured. The St. Catherine's Healing Prayer Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church our next prayer meeting is Monday, December 22, 2025. We are also asking for individuals who would like to be involved in this healing ministry from around the deanery to join us. We have gotten permission from the priests in the deanery so please visit with your pastor. If you are interested, please contact one of the individuals listed below for more information.

Doran Chandler 701-840-1257
 Deacon Jim McAllister 701-840-1473

**St. Catherine's Religious Education
Grades K-8, 6:30 pm**



Wednesday, December 3: 6:30 pm 1st
Mandatory Parent Meeting for Confirmation

Wednesday, December 3: 6:30pm 1st
Mandatory Parent Meeting for Confirmation

Saturday, December 6 beginning at 9 am:
1st Reconciliation, Prayer cards for the 1st
Reconciliation Children are in the entry of the
church.

If you have questions or concerns, please
contact DRE Carol Jobs at
stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

*"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come
to you without leaving happier." - St. Mother Teresa of
Calcutta*

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.

**Prayer - Fellowship - Quilting
Join the Fun!**



St. Catherine Quilters make quilts
for those in need in our area every
Thursday 1-4:30pm & 6:30-9pm
next to the school cafeteria.
Everyone is welcome for any
length of time. No experience
necessary & supplies provided.

Questions call:
Christine, 840-2580 or Lela, 840-8352.



ADVENT

**Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 16th
7:00 p.m.**

St Catherine's Teen Corner Grades 9-12, 7:00 pm

December 3: "Bethlehem Meal"

December 10: Decorating - We will be
helping the Ladies Book Club decorate the
social hall for Christmas. If you can, we will
start at 6:30pm. If you can't make it till
7:00pm that will be fine.

December 17: "Silly Competitions"

Classes will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.,
unless noted in teen corner. All youth, grades
9-12 are invited to come, have fun and learn
about their Catholic faith. If you have any
questions or concerns, feel free to contact
Deacon Tom Vanorny 701-210-0640.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Gerard # 2518



Meet Monthly 2nd Monday

December 1st Bible Study 1:30p or 6:00p

December 2nd CDA Work Meeting 1:30p

**December 7th CDA leads Divine Mercy
Chaplet 10:10am**

**December 8th Holy Day - Immaculate
Conception
8:00p to 12:00a National Night
of Prayer for Life**

Tuesday Morning Movies

Please join the Tuesday Morning Movie Group,
each Tuesday morning after the 8:00am Mass in
the Sacred Heart Room for a movie, muffins and
mighty good fellowship. Showing this week:
"War of the Vendee" a small band of peasants
and nobles in Western France begin a Catholic
counter-revolution in 1793 wearing their rosaries
and emblems of the Sacred Heart to win the
restoration of religious freedom for all France.
All are welcome!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Help fill our Church with the beauty of Christmas with a gift for a family member, living or deceased. Names of those remembered will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. Donations are used for Christmas flowers and decorations. Please complete the following information and return to the Parish Office by December 15th.

Given by: _____

Amount: _____

Person(s) being remembered: Please print legibly so I don't spell any names wrong, thank you!!

4TH ANNUAL

Advent GIVING TREE

Nov. 30 - Dec. 14

Pick an ornament
off a tree!

Please attach the tag to your
UNWRAPPED gift and place it
under the tree in the
Good Shepherd space
by December 14.

ORGANIZATIONS HELPED:

St. Gianna Maternity Home
Fargo Women's Care Center
Abused Person's Outreach
Open Door Center
St. Raphael Care Center





JOIN US FOR

MERRY & BRIGHT CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

DECEMBER 10TH

ST CATHERINE'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

10.30 AM

Come and enjoy our music!





53rd Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner



St. Catherine's Church Dining Hall
December 24, 2025
5:30pm to 7:00pm

For those who will be alone this Christmas,
come celebrate Jesus's birthday
with other members of our community.

Desserts are welcome, no salads please.

We appreciate financial donations.

For questions or to volunteer please call:
Deacon Tom Vanorny at 701-210-0640

**If you need transportation: Call 845-0354 by 3:00pm on
Tuesday, December 23, 2025**

Financial Donations can be mailed to:
St. Catherine Church
Attn: Christmas Eve Dinner
540 3rd Ave NE
Valley City, ND 58072

We appreciate your generosity.

Sorry - No deliveries except for the love of Jesus to one another!!



Advent

LIVING IN CHRIST'S LIGHT

As the nights grow longer and the air turns colder, Advent arrives—not only as a season on the calendar, but as a call to our hearts. In a world where darkness can feel overwhelming—through suffering, division, and uncertainty—Advent reminds us that God has already answered with light.

From the beginning, God's light has pierced the shadows. The prophets saw it from afar, speaking of a coming Messiah who would bring justice, peace, and healing. In Bethlehem, that promised light took flesh. In Jesus Christ, the Light of the World stepped into our night with the warmth of love and the power of truth.

Each Advent candle, each quiet moment of prayer, becomes a step on the path from darkness to light. As the candles grow in number each week—hope, peace, joy, and love—we are invited to let Christ's light grow within us. The flicker of a flame reminds us: He is near. He is coming. He is already here.

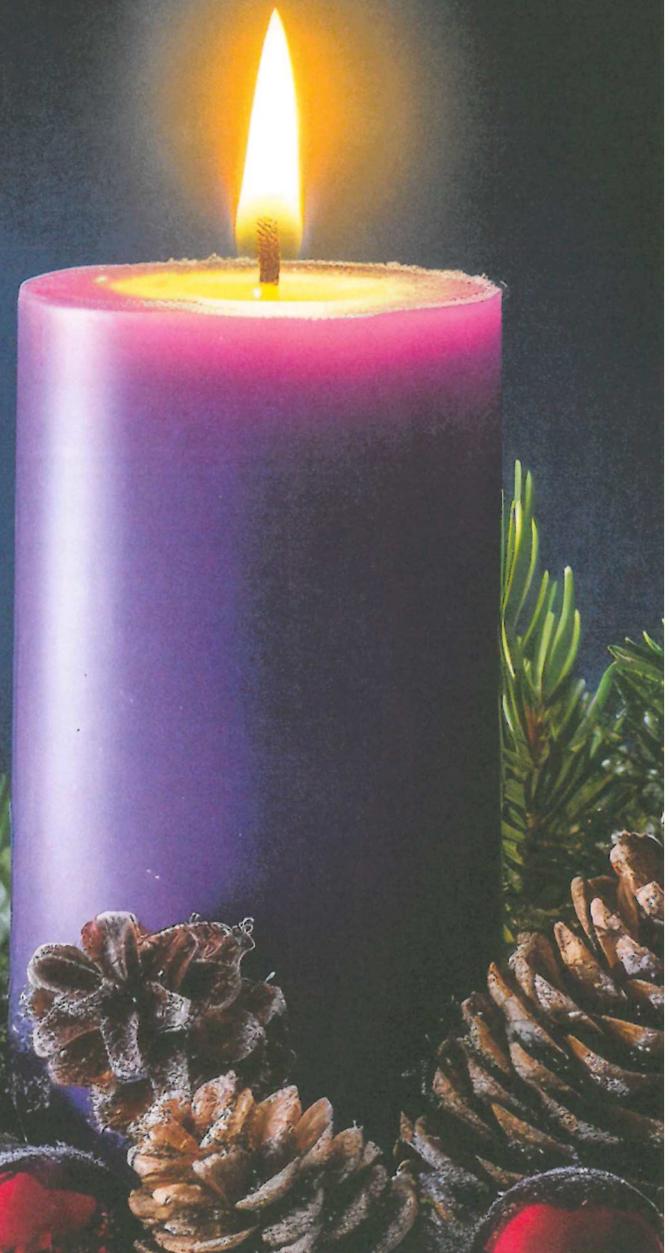
But Advent is not just about seeing the light. It is about living in it. Christ doesn't shine so we can remain the same; he shines so we can become radiant with his love. His light transforms our hearts, softens our judgments, strengthens our courage, and sends us out as bearers of that same light.

In this sacred season, we are called to reflect his light—to offer hope to the lonely, peace to the anxious, joy to the weary, and love to the forgotten.

Whether we light a candle on the wreath or a string of lights on the tree, let each small flame be a prayer:

COME, LORD JESUS. LIGHT THE WAY.
DWELL IN US. SHINE THROUGH US.

This Advent, may we not only watch for Christ's coming but prepare to live as children of the light—joyful, radiant, and ready to welcome him.



FROM CANDLES TO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

ILLUMINATING THE MEANING OF ADVENT

Candles have long symbolized Advent, representing the light of Christ coming into a world darkened by sin. The tradition dates back to early Christian customs in Europe, where people lit candles during the darkest days of winter as a sign of hope and expectation. Over time, this merged with Christian liturgical practices—especially in medieval Germany—giving rise to the Advent wreath.

The wreath usually holds four candles—three purple and one pink—lit one by one on each Sunday of Advent. Some include a fifth white candle, the Christ candle, lit on Christmas Day. Each flame represents a theme: hope, peace, joy, and love. As more candles are lit, the growing light reflects the increasing anticipation of Christ's birth.

More than seasonal decoration, candles serve as a visual and spiritual countdown to Christmas. Their soft glow invites stillness, prayer, and reflection in a season often marked by hurry. They help focus our hearts on the mystery and joy of the Incarnation.

Christmas lights continue this tradition in a broader, more public way. Like Advent candles, they symbolize Christ as the Light of the World—a promise kindled in Advent and fulfilled on Christmas Day. The practice of lighting homes and trees began when Christians placed candles in windows as a sign of welcome and hope. With electric lights introduced in the late 19th century, the tradition expanded to homes, trees, and city streets.

Each light we see—whether candle or bulb—echoes the same message: light overcomes darkness. Jesus, the true Light, has come to bring warmth, joy, and peace. As candles call us to quiet reflection, Christmas lights proclaim in celebration that the Light has arrived.



SUNDAY MASS READINGS FOR ADVENT 2025

1st Sunday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

2nd Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

3rd Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

4th Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

"MAY WE BE IN THIS WORLD A RAY OF THAT LIGHT WHICH SHONE FORTH FROM BETHLEHEM, BRINGING JOY AND PEACE TO THE HEARTS OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN."

—Pope Francis

WHERE DID ADVENT COME FROM?

Advent originated in the early Church as a season of preparation for baptism, especially for new Christians baptized at Epiphany. Records from 4th-century Gaul and Spain show Christians observing periods of fasting and penance in late autumn. By the 6th century, the focus of Advent shifted in Rome to preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25. Pope Gregory I (590–604) helped shape the season's liturgical structure, though the number of weeks varied regionally. By the Middle Ages, the Western Church standardized Advent as the four Sundays before Christmas. Its name comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming," and it mirrors the Greek word *parousia*, referring to Christ's return. Over time, Advent became a season marking both Christ's first coming in Bethlehem and his promised return.

ADVENT FACTS

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." It translates the Greek word *parousia*, which refers to Christ's Second Coming. Advent invites reflection on both Christ's birth and his return in glory.

Liturgical colors used during Advent are primarily purple (or violet), symbolizing penance, prayer, and preparation. On the third Sunday, called *Gaudete* Sunday, (Latin for "rejoice") rose-colored vestments may be used to signify joy and a shift toward celebration.

The '**O Antiphons**' are a set of ancient prayers recited or sung from December 17–23. Each begins with "O" and addresses Christ by a biblical title, such as "O Wisdom" or "O Emmanuel." They are the inspiration for the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

The **Advent season** begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts between 22 and 28 days, depending on the calendar year.