**Getting Ready to Prepare!**

This is the last week of Ordinary Time. Advent begins next weekend and so marks the beginning of the new year for the Church as the new liturgical year, or Church year, begins on the first Sunday of Advent. The four weeks before Christmas are called ‘Advent’. The term comes from a Latin word (adventus) meaning ‘coming, arrival’.

**REMINDER: Prepare the Advent Wreaths!**

In making the advent wreath evergreen leaves are placed around the candles reminding us that God’s love is everlasting. The four candles, 3 purple/violet and one pink are placed in a circle as a symbol of God’s love for us, an ongoing love that has no beginning or end. A candle a week is lit as we prepare for the season of Christmas.

Week 1 begins at the vigil Mass, Saturday, December 1st Purple/violet candle

Week 2 begins at the vigil Mass, Saturday, December 8th  Purple/violet candle

Week 3 begins at the vigil Mass, Saturday, December 15th Pink Candle

Week 4 begins at the vigil Mass, Saturday, December 22nd Purple/violet candle

One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, two on the second Sunday, and so on until all four candles are lit on the Sunday before Christmas.

During Advent we reflect on the different comings of Jesus: his coming into the world as a baby in Bethlehem; his coming among us in our daily lives, especially in the Eucharist. Advent is a season of hope and expectation. A time in which we prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

*“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope”, (Pope Benedict XVI)*