

# Advent Traditions and Feasts 2024

Starts Cycle C, Dec 1 - Dec 24

## St. Andrew Novena

Starts on Nov 30-Dec 24

This prayer traditionally is prayed 15 times a day starting on the feast of St. Andrew and going through Christmas Eve.

## Advent Wreath

Each Sunday you light a new candle Dec 1-Dec 22

Candles are 3 purple and 1 pink. A new candle is lit each Sunday.

The pink candle is for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Dec 15), Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means Rejoice!

## Advent Calendar

Starts on Dec 1 – Dec 25

Visible countdown throughout Advent starting from Dec 1-Dec 25

## The Jesse Tree

Starts on Dec 1 with the First Sunday of Advent

You can go through these daily or do 4-5 ornaments per Sunday.

The Jesse Tree is a way to trace salvific history through the Old Testament leading up to Jesus.

## Friday, Dec 6 – St. Nicholas Day

**Monday, Dec 9 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (holy day of obligation)** – usually on Dec 8 but moved this year

## Monday, Dec 9 – Feast of San Juan Diego

## Thursday, Dec 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Friday, Dec 13 – St. Lucy

## O Antiphons

Starts Dec 17-Dec 23, prayed daily

These are the different names for Jesus found in the prophecies of Isaiah.

These are prayed along with the Magnificat, the Cantic of Mary.

## Las Posadas

Celebrated each day Dec 16-24

Commemorates Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and being turned away inn after inn until they are housed in a stable. The 9 days of posadas represents the 9 months that Mary was pregnant with Jesus.

## Pastorela:

Usually performed during Advent but focused on the time after Jesus is born. The play is about the shepherds and Three Wise Men trying to find Jesus. The devil in the play tries to distract and misdirect the shepherds and Wise Men.

# Blessing of an Advent Wreath

**Starts Sunday, December 1, 2024**

The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

---

All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader says:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

Response (R/) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Then the Scripture is read:

**Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or**

**Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or**

**Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7)**

Reader: **The word of the Lord.**

**R/. Thanks be to God.**

With hands joined, the leader says:

**Lord our God, we praise you for your Son,  
Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of  
the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches  
and guides us, he is the Savior of every  
nation.**

**Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us as we light the  
candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its  
light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us  
salvation.**

**May he come quickly and not delay.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R/. Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with a verse from  
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

**O come, desire of nations, bind in  
one the hearts of humankind; bid  
ev'ry sad division cease and be  
thyself our Prince of peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall  
come to thee, O Israel.**

# How to Pray the St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Starts on Nov 30-Dec 24, traditionally this prayer is said 15 times per day.

This 25 day novena begins on the feast of St. Andrew - November 30. Tradition holds that we pray this novena for a particular intention.

Time needed: 1 minute x 15 times per day for 25 days

## 1. **Make the Sign of the Cross.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## 2. **Say the St. Andrew Christmas Novena prayer.**

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe (grant), I beseech Thee (ask you), O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

## 3. **Name any intentions or other prayers you wish to share with God.**

## 4. **Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## 5. **If you're praying this novena in the traditional fashion ...**

Repeat the above steps 14x throughout your day.

## 6. **Keep praying daily through Christmas Eve!**

# ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA PRAYER & TRACKER

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

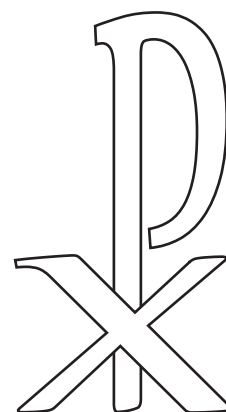
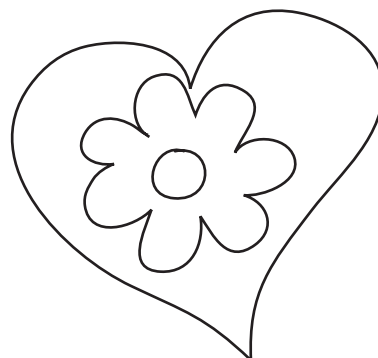
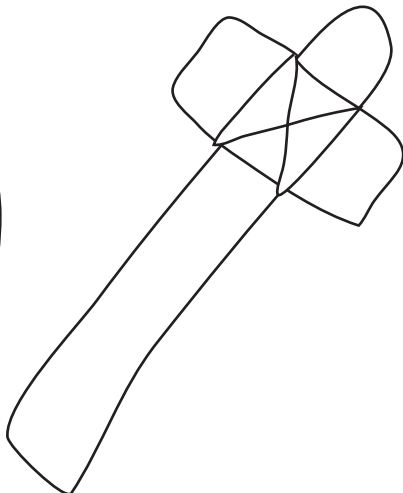
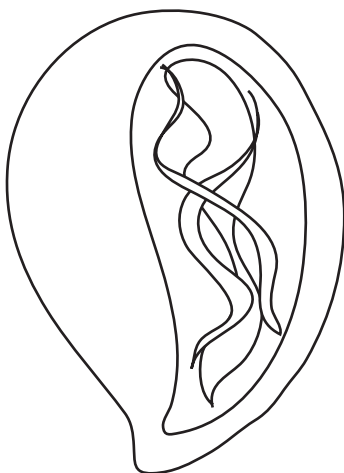
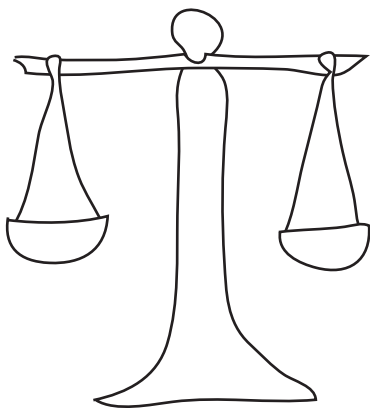
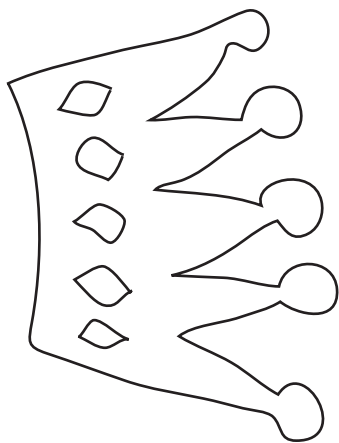
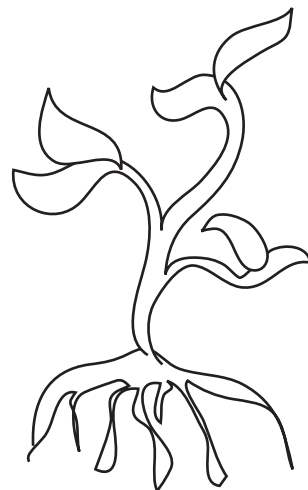
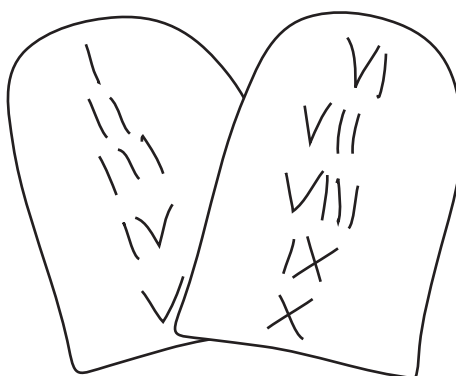
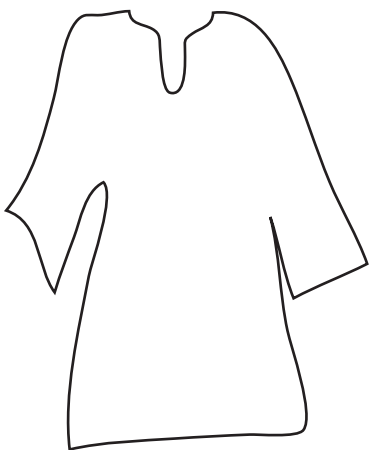
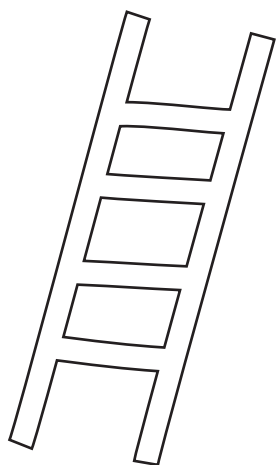
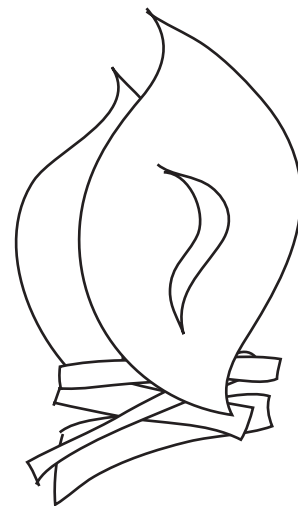
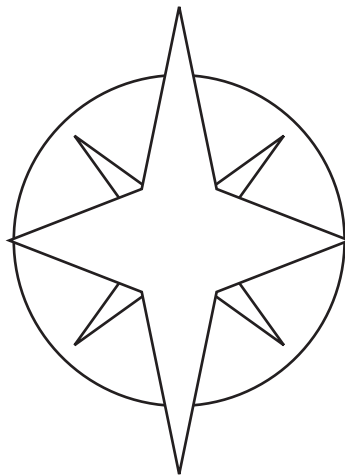
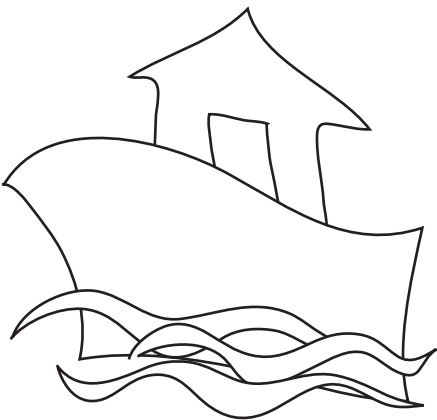
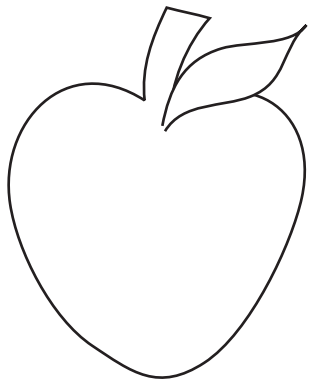
Amen

<b>NOV. 30</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 1</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 2</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 3</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 4</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 5</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 6</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 7</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 8</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 9</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 10</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 11</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 12</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 13</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 14</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 15</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 16</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 17</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 18</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 19</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 20</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 21</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 22</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 23</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DEC. 24</b>	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15

**FAVOR REQUESTED:**







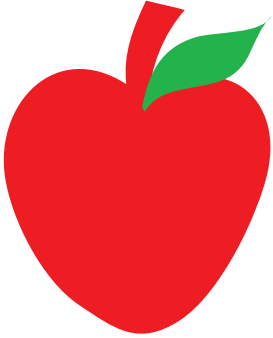
# Jesse Tree Symbols

Decide how many you will need – if you plan to do one symbol each day of December, you'll need 24. If you only expect to do this once a week, choose four symbols. It's entirely up to you! The list is not exhaustive – there are many other great prophets and ancestors in the Jewish story.

<b>Spiritual Ancestor</b>	<b>Symbol (choose one)</b>
<b>God the Father</b> Gen 1	Sun, Earth
<b>Adam &amp; Eve</b> Gen 2,3	Fruit, fig leaves, male & female figure
<b>Noah</b> Gen 9	Ark, Rainbow, Dove with olive branch
<b>Abraham</b> Gen 18	Star, grains of sand
<b>Sarah</b> Gen 18:9-14	Tent, pregnant woman
<b>Isaac</b> 22:13-14	Woodpile, fire, ram
<b>Rebekah</b> Gen 28:10-17	Camel, water jug
<b>Jacob</b> Gen 29:10-17	Ladder
<b>Rachel</b> Gen 29:9-12	Shepherd's crook
<b>Joseph</b> Gen 37:3	Colourful coat
<b>Moses</b> Ex 3:1-6	10 Commandments, burning bush
<b>Miriam</b> Ex 15:20-21	Music notes, tambourine
<b>Deborah</b> Jud 4:4-5	Palm tree
<b>Samuel</b> 1 Sam 3:1-3	Lamp
<b>Ruth</b> Ruth 2:1-9	Bundled straw, ear of wheat
<b>Jesse</b> Is 11:1	Root, branch
<b>David</b> 1 Sam 16:17-18	Slingshot, harp, crown
<b>Solomon</b> 1 King 5:2-5	Scales, temple columns
<b>Isaiah</b> Is 6:1	Throne
<b>Daniel</b> Dan 6:16-24	Lion
<b>Jonah</b> Jon 1,2	Big fish
<b>Elizabeth</b> Lk 1:39-45	Dove
<b>John the Baptist</b> Mt 3:1-6	River, water, camel hair tunic
<b>Joseph</b> Mt 1:18-25	Hammer, angel
<b>Mary (Miriam)</b> Lk 1:26-35	Heart, lily, angel
<b>Jesus (Yeshua)</b> Lk2:1-7	Manger, Chi-Rho, star of Bethlehem



# Jesse Tree



## First Week of Advent

### Adam and Eve: Do not eat the fruit

[Genesis 2:7, 18-22, 3:1-3](#)

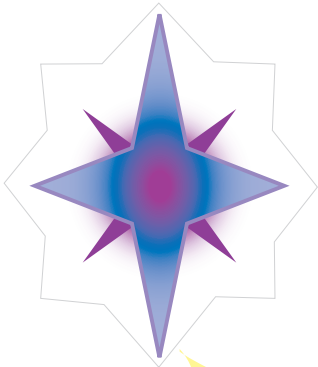
*The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into him the breath of life. Then he said, 'it is not good for man to be alone, I will make a partner for him'. So he caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he slept, he took a rib and from this made a woman. Now the serpent was crafty and said to the woman, 'Did God really say you shall not eat from any tree in the garden?' The woman said, 'God said, that we can not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden, or even touch it, because if we do, we shall die.'*



### Noah: Build an Ark

[Genesis 6:9-19](#)

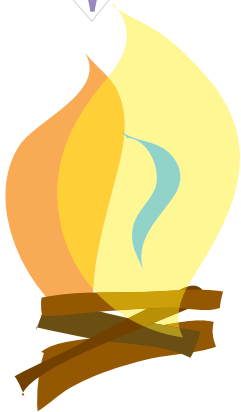
*Noah was a good man and he walked with God. But the earth was filled with violence. God said to Noah 'I am going to destroy everything on the earth. Build an ark, and take with you, your wife, your sons and their wives, and two of every living thing, male and female.'*



### Abraham: Count the Stars

[Genesis 15:1-2,5](#)

*God spoke to Abraham "Do not be afraid, Abraham, I am your shield and your reward will be great." But Abraham said, "O Lord God, what shall you give me, for I am childless"; The Lord took him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars if you can. You shall have as many descendants as there are stars."*



### Isaac: The Lord will provide

[Genesis 22:2-13](#)

*God tested Abraham. He said, 'Take your son, Issac, whom you love, and offer him as a burnt offering to me'. So Abraham cut the wood for the burnt offering and took Issac to the mountain that God showed him. There he built an altar and tied Isaac to the wood. But before he could kill him, an angel of the Lord called to him 'Do not harm your son, for now I know that you fear God.' Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket. So he took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering to God. So Abraham called that place, 'the Lord will provide', because the Lord provided the burnt offering.*

# Jesse Tree

## Second Week of Advent

### Jacob: I am with you wherever you go

[Genesis 28:11-15](#)

*When Jacob came to the place, he stayed there for the night using a stone for a pillow. While he slept, he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on earth and reaching to heaven. The angels of God were going up and down on it. The Lord God stood beside it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham and Issac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and your children who will be many. Know that I am with you and wherever you go, I will bring you back to this land."*

### Joseph: Here comes the dreamer

[Genesis 37:2-4,9,18](#)

*Jacob loved Joseph more than any other of his children and he made him a long robe with sleeves. Joseph had a dream, in which the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to him. When his brothers heard this, they hated him and planned to kill him. But his brother Reuben said, 'Do not kill him, throw him into this pit instead.' So they took Joseph, stripped him of his robe and threw him into the pit in the wilderness, without water. When some traders came by, they sold him as a slave and he was taken to Egypt.*

### Moses: The two tablets, written with the finger of God

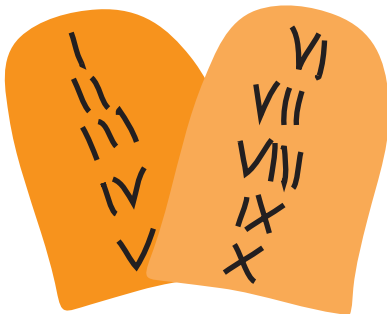
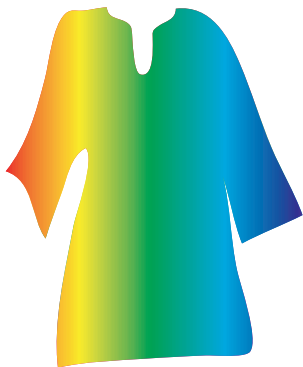
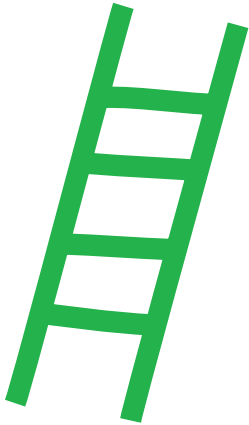
[Exodus 19:20, 20:1-17 31:18](#)

*God summoned Moses to Mount Sinai. God spoke these words, "I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other Gods before me. You shall not worship idols. You shall not misuse my name. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Honour your father and mother. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not lie. You shall not covet what does not belong to you. When God finished speaking, he gave Moses the two tablets of the covenant, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*

### Jesse: A shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse

[1 Samuel 16:1,4,5, 11-13. Isaiah 11:1](#)

*The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and set out to Jesse, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' So Samuel went to Bethlehem where he offered a sacrifice and invited Jesse and his sons. Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?'. Jesse replied, 'The youngest is keeping the sheep'. Samuel said, 'Send for him'. When David arrived the Lord said 'Rise up and anoint him, for this is the one'. So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.*



# Jesse Tree

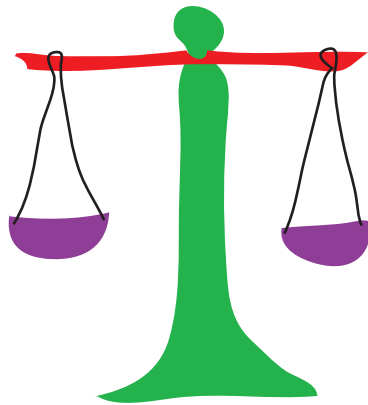
## Third Week of Advent

### David: I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts

[1 Samuel 17:1-9,40-49; 2 Samuel 2:4](#)



*The Philistines gathered their armies for battle. From the Philistines, a champion named Goliath came and shouted, 'Choose a man for yourselves and let him fight me. If he kills me, we will be your servants; but if I kill him, you shall serve us'. When David heard Goliath, he said to Saul, 'I will fight him'. David was a boy with no armour or weapons except his staff and his sling. Goliath said, 'Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field'. But David replied, 'You come to me with sword and spear; but I come to you in the name of the Lord.' David took out a stone, slung it, and it struck Goliath on the forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. When Saul died, David was anointed king of Israel.*



### Solomon: Give your servant an understanding mind

[1 Kings 3:3,5-9](#)

*Solomon loved the Lord. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream 'Ask what I should give you'. And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant, my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness. And now, you have made me, your servant king, although I am only a little child. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil'.*

### Daniel – all people should tremble before the living God

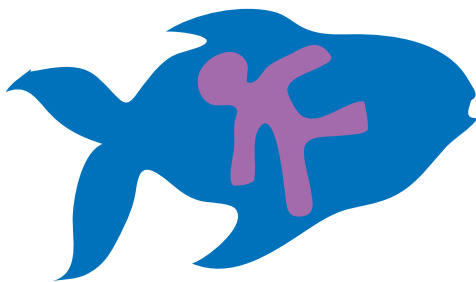
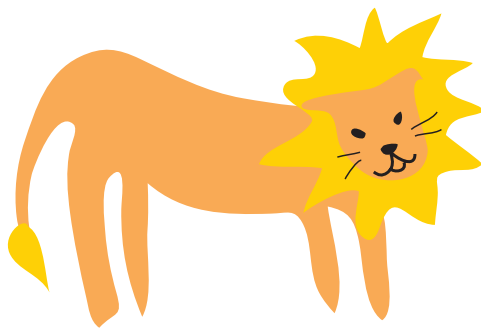
[Daniel 6:21-22](#)

*Daniel was favoured by King Darius, but others were jealous of him. They convinced the King to pass a law forbidding anyone from praying to a god other than himself. Daniel, to prayed every day to the Lord, so they arrested him and threw him into the lions den. The King was distressed but could not save him. At dawn, the king called to the lion's den and Daniel replied, 'My God sent his angel and shut the lions mouths so that they could not hurt me.' The king declared 'I make a decree, that in my kingdom, all people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God'.*

### Jonah: From the belly of Hell I cried and you heard my voice

[Jonah 1:1-2:2](#)

*The Lord came to Jonah saying, 'Go to Nineveh and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come before me'. But Jonah fled the Lord and joined a ship and set for Tarshish. The Lord sent such a great storm, that the ship threatened to sink. The sailors came to Jonah asking why such a terrible thing was happening. Jonah told them to throw him into the sea and when they did, the storm stopped. A large fish swallowed Jonah and he prayed in the belly: 'I called to the Lord in my distress and he answered me'. After three days, the Lord made the fish spew Jonah onto dry land. Again, the Lord called Jonah to take a message Nineveh. And Jonah went.*



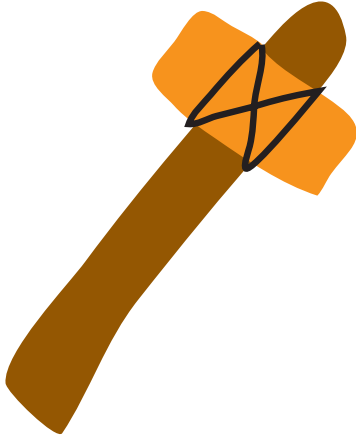
# Jesse Tree

## Fourth Week of Advent

### Joseph – do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

*The birth of Jesus happened like this. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, Mary became pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary, so he planned to dismiss her quietly. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, the child in her womb is from the Holy Spirit. She will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.' When he awoke, he took Mary as his wife.*



### Mary – Let it be done to me according to your word

[Luke 1:28-38](#)

*The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary. 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid for you have pleased God. The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will conceive in your womb a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be called Son of God.' Mary said, 'I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.'*



### John the Baptist - I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals

[Luke 3:15](#)

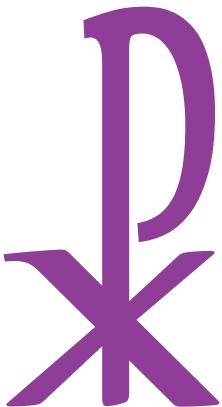
*People were asking if John might be the Messiah. John answered, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'*



### Jesus – Glory to God in the highest heaven

[Luke 2:1-20](#)

*Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to a son, wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger for there was no room for them in the inn. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to some shepherds in the nearby fields, 'I bring you good news of great joy: to you is born this day, a saviour.' Suddenly, a multitude of angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth, peace among those he favours.' The shepherds went with haste to see the child lying in a manger and all who heard what they had seen were amazed. Mary treasured these words and pondered them in her heart.*



# The Great O Antiphons

## Gospel Cantic: Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

### Antiphon of the Day

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and Holy is His Name.

He has mercy on those who fear Him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of His arm,  
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant Israel  
for He has remembered His promise of mercy,  
the promise He made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and His children for ever.

### Repeat Antiphon



#### December 17: O Wisdom (O Sapientia)

O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly. Come, and teach us the way of prudence.



#### December 18: O Lord and Ruler (O Adonai)

O Lord and Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and on Mount Sinai gave him your Law. Come, and with outstretched arm redeem us.



#### December 19: O Root of Jesse (O Radix Jesse)

O Root of Jesse, you stand for the ensign of all mankind; before you kings shall keep silence and to you all nations shall have recourse. *Come*, save us, and do not delay.



#### December 20: O Key of David (O Clavis David)

O Key of David, Scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no man closes; you close and no man opens. *Come*, and deliver him from the chains of prison who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.



#### December 21: O Rising Dawn (O Oriens)

O Rising Dawn, Radiance of the Light eternal and Sun of Justice; *Come*, enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.



#### December 22: O King of the Nations (O Rex Gentium)

O King of the Gentiles, Desired of all, you are the cornerstone that binds two into one. *Come*, and save poor man whom you fashion out of clay.



#### December 23: O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Savior: Come, and save us, O Lord our God.

## O Come, Emmanuel



1. O Come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

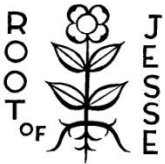
***Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***



2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily,  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*



3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*



4. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,  
From ev'ry foe deliver them  
That trust Thy mighty power to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*



5. O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*



6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night.  
And death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*



7. O come, Desire of nations, bind,  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of peace. *Refrain*