

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blared out since Thanksgiving time. But now that we are into Advent, there are some things to be mindful of in preparing for the Lord's coming:

Use an Advent wreath in your home and say a prayer each week when the new candle is lighted.

Place the Bible in a prominent location, and as Christmas nears (or on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day), read the Scripture of Luke that tells the story of the birth of Jesus. If you do not have a Bible, ask at the office for one. You can also find the Christmas story from Scripture on this website (under Faith Formation/Extra-Curricular).

Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas.

Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. These special events can be carried down for generations, helping family members bond and grow more closely in love for Christ and one another.

Attend a weekday Mass, if you have not. If you cannot, then come to weekend Mass 15 minutes earlier to meditate and pray.

Take an additional 5-10 minutes each day to focus on what gift(s) we can give to Jesus at Christmas. Begin by asking, "What in my life, needs to change for the better?" THAT would be the perfect gift for Him!

Go to Confession! If it has been a long time, make an appointment to meet with Father, and he will help you through it.

Consider any special charities or individuals you can help during this season of giving. Consider the gift of "time" for your family, children and grandchildren, neighbors, elderly family and friends and the homebound.

In God's own time and in his own way, He will come! Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.