### Advent

The word “Advent” is the English translation of the Latin word “adventus,” which means “coming.” Advent is a Christian tradition intended to help us prepare for the coming of Christ into our world. Its purpose is to slow us down, help us pay attention to our relationship with God and encourage us to consider how God wants to enter more fully into our lives.

Rather than rushing ahead to Christmas, our celebration of Advent allows us to be present to the beauty, wonder, and richness of each day. It helps us appreciate the goodness of longing, waiting and living in anticipation. Advent is also a time of preparing ourselves to receive and be transformed by God’s love. Finally, Advent is a time of hope. It is a season in which we strive to rejuvenate our hope by remembering that God desperately desires to be born into our lives and our world – and that, if we are willing, God’s love can restore and redeem our brokenness.

While it’s a wonderful season, Advent is also easy to miss. Especially for those of us who have finals to take or papers to write, we can experience these extraordinary days passing by in a blur, leaving us with relief that we’ve survived rather than joy at what it all means. The Advent wreath, however, is intended to focus our attention on each day of Advent – without rushing ahead to Christmas – and to keep us mindful of the One for whom we are waiting. The wreath incorporates candlelight as a symbol of Christ as the light of the world. Starting tonight, on the first Sunday of Advent, one purple candle is lit with a prayer; an additional candle is lit each Sunday during the following weeks. This weekly progression of growing light mirrors our increasing excitement for the approaching birth of Jesus.

Advent calls us to prepare. It is a time of getting ready to receive the extravagant love and mercy of God revealed most fully through the coming of Jesus. With the arrival of Advent, we are invited to enter into this mystery once more. God’s love. Finally, Advent is a time of hope. It is a season in which we strive to rejuvenate our hope by remembering that God desperately desires to be born into our lives and our world – and that, if we are willing, God’s love can restore and redeem our brokenness.

Advent is a Christian tradition intended to help us prepare for the coming of Christ into our world. Its purpose is to slow us down, help us pay attention to our relationship with God and encourage us to consider how God wants to enter more fully into our lives.

Rather than rushing ahead to Christmas, our celebration of Advent allows us to be present to the beauty, wonder, and richness of each day. It helps us appreciate the goodness of longing, waiting and living in anticipation. Advent is also a time of preparing ourselves to receive and be transformed by God’s love. Finally, Advent is a time of hope. It is a season in which we strive to rejuvenate our hope by remembering that God desperately desires to be born into our lives and our world – and that, if we are willing, God’s love can restore and redeem our brokenness.

While it’s a wonderful season, Advent is also easy to miss. Especially for those of us who have finals to take or papers to write, we can experience these extraordinary days passing by in a blur, leaving us with relief that we’ve survived rather than joy at what it all means. The Advent wreath, however, is intended to focus our attention on each day of Advent – without rushing ahead to Christmas – and to keep us mindful of the One for whom we are waiting. The wreath incorporates candlelight as a symbol of Christ as the light of the world. Starting tonight, on the first Sunday of Advent, one purple candle is lit with a prayer; an additional candle is lit each Sunday during the following weeks. This weekly progression of growing light mirrors our increasing excitement for the approaching birth of Jesus.

Advent calls us to prepare. It is a time of getting ready to receive the extravagant love and mercy of God revealed most fully through the coming of Jesus. With the arrival of Advent, we are invited to enter into this mystery once more.
This week’s St. Didacus collection will be used to provide humanitarian assistance to the migrants and refugees who have recently arrived to Tijuana.

Many of the approximately 6,000 migrants are from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. They are fleeing violence and poverty in their home countries where it is often difficult to live in safety and with dignity. Many have made the journey to the U.S. border in hopes of turning themselves in to the authorities in order to apply for asylum, a legal status that can be granted to individuals who have credible fear of returning to their home country. The funds collected tonight will be used to purchase tents, blankets, mattresses and other basic necessities that are most needed by the individuals who are staying at a temporary shelter set up in a sports complex.

Last week’s collection raised $311.76 for Casa del Migrante. Thank you for your generosity.

Post-Grad Service Profile

Name: Brooke Silvas ‘16
Program: Rostro de Cristo - Guayaquil, Ecuador
Work Placement:
English Teacher, Escuela San Felipe Neri
Why I Served:
On immersion and study abroad experiences with USD in Mexico, El Salvador, and Argentina, I felt some unexplainable connection to the people of Latin America. I was welcomed by a love given freely and without conditions. I made connections in spite of differences and built relationships across borders. Despite being very disconnected from my own Mexican heritage, I felt welcomed and part of a larger community. With every experience I felt more alive, more myself, and more of a desire to never leave. I recognized this as a little nudge from God to do post-grad service. Even more important than service, I wanted to walk with and learn from people on the margins. I wanted to challenge myself to live simply and in solidarity with my neighbors to truly encounter the heart and soul of a people. In Ecuador, I found a family within my intentional community and I learned the power of presence and accompaniment. From my neighborhood, I learned how to love with everything in my being, how to cherish and celebrate the joys of life, and that God is walking with us every step of the way.

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 10th, 7:00 p.m.  The Immaculata

A wonderful way to deepen your experience of Advent and to prepare for Christmas. A brief communal prayer service will be followed by the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Half Time

If you’re a sophomore who enjoys self-reflection and growth, practical skill development, and building relationships with USD alumni, faculty, and staff, then we hope you’ll join us for Half Time! This hybrid experience from January 24-25 is designed to help you make the most of your remaining time at USD.

Registration opens Monday, November 19 at sandiego.edu/halftime.

Sponsored by University Ministry, the Career Development Center, Residential Life, and the Mulvaney Center. Contact amonteleone@sandiego.edu with any questions!