



What is Gaudete Sunday?

A Joyful Sunday. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word “gaudete” is derived from the Latin words “gaudium,” joy, and “gaudeo,” to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

The Term “Gaudete.” Gaudete is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.

Multiple Reasons for Joy. There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father’s house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

A Joyful Colour. Rose represents joy and may be used as the liturgical colour for Gaudete Sunday. Violet remains the official colour for the Season of Advent, the Third Sunday included, because all of Advent has a penitential tone, a time to be absolved of sin and be in the state of grace for Christmas. Gaudete Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity.

Joyful Adornments. The priest may wear a rose chasuble and the deacon may wear a rose dalmatic. Church decorations may include roses or other flowers, a rose-coloured altar cloth, drapery on the pulpit or ambo, chalice veil, tabernacle curtain, or wall hangings. The third candle of the Advent wreath is rose.

Joyful Prayers. The prayers in the Roman Missal on the Third Sunday of Advent convey a joyful message. The immediacy of Christmas is addressed in the Collect, “O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity,” followed by two explicit references to joy: “enable us ... to attain the joys of so great a salvation” and “to celebrate them with ... glad rejoicing.” Preface II of Advent says, “we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity” and that we are “exultant in his praise.” The Communion Antiphon contains the joyful message, “Behold, our God will come, and he will save us” (cf. Is 35:4). Two invocations in the Solemn Blessing for Advent refer to joy: the second, “may he make you ... joyful in hope,” and the third, “So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer’s coming.”

Joyful Scripture Texts. In the first reading Isaiah says that he was sent “to bring glad tidings” (Is 61:1) and that “my God is the joy of my soul” (Is 61:10); in the Responsorial Psalm the Blessed Virgin Mary prays, “My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” (Lk 1:47); and in the second reading St. Paul insists that we should “rejoice always” (1 Thes 5:16). The gospel is John the Baptist’s joyful declaration that he was sent by God to testify to the light, the one who is coming after him, the Christ! (Jn 1:7,27).



Parish Newsletter for Our Lady of Lourdes’, Perth & St. James’, Kinross



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For the weekend of December 10th/11th, 2022
3rd Sunday of Advent - *Gaudete Sunday* - Year A

Thoughts for Advent

Advent is about looking forward with hope: looking forward in the short term to the day we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ – the day we welcome into our world, Emmanuel, God with us. But it is also about looking forward to the second coming of Christ, when God’s kingdom will be established, when death will be no more, where there will be no more pain or crying or mourning, when these things will have passed away. The “Advent” God is the one who ‘came down to earth from heaven’. He is ‘God and Lord of all’. He came down to share our humanity; to share our pains, our trials, our joys. The “Advent” God knows each of us by name and longs to meet each one of us when He comes.

Please remember the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and their work for the needy as you leave Mass.

Letham 4 All Christmas Light Switch-On

It will be held Tuesday 13th December between 6-8pm.

Although the usual site at Rannoch Road Park is currently a building site there is still some space at the bottom end for the Christmas tree to be placed. The event will be 6.00-8.00p.m. with carol singers and Christmas music etc. from 6.00p.m. and the switch on around 6.45 and then with Santa arriving around that time, too, however he will be heading to his “Grotto” which will be in the Letham Club this year due to the limited space at Rannoch Road. Hot drinks will be served in the Letham Club for those who want. There will be volunteers supporting the pathways and directions to sites and to Santa. One of our parishioners, Raffaele Storino, will be officially representing us at the switch-on and joining in offering a prayer/reflection along with representatives of other local churches.

A Daily Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Christmas Masses

Because Christmas falls this year on a Sunday I feel it only sensible to have the Christmas Masses at our normal Saturday Vigil/Sunday Mass times. This would mean that the Vigil Masses for Christmas would be at 5.00p.m. in Our Lady's and at 7.00p.m. in St. James', and the Christmas Day Masses at 9.00a.m. in St. James' and 11.00a.m. in Our Lady's.

As I understand it, it has been a tradition in both parishes to have a brief Carol Service before the Christmas Vigil Mass and so this will take place at 4.30p.m. in Our Lady's and at 6.30p.m. in St. James'.

Christmas parties for children in the parishes and their families

On Sunday 18th December after the 9.00a.m. Mass in St. James', and after the 11.00a.m. Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes' on the same day, I would like to invite children and families to celebrate with a pre-Christmas party - a time to come together to celebrate as we look forward to the birth of Our Saviour at Christmas. I thought we might decorate the respective church halls appropriately and provide juice, crisps, cake, and goodies for the wee ones so that they can celebrate with their friends in the parish family, and also so that parents can come together to enjoy each other's company - all parishioners would be welcome, of course. If you can help to organise this, or contribute in any way I would be very grateful. I hope that this will be a simple way of showing our love and appreciation for the youngest members of our family of faith and thanking parents for the good work they do in bringing their young ones to Holy Mass and passing on to them the beautiful gift of the Faith. God bless, Fr. Martin

Please remember to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

First Confessions

Please remember in your prayers the boys and girls of St. James' Catechism Class who will make their First Confession on Monday 12th December - the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Prayers for our beloved dead and those who are unwell at this time

We remember in our prayers all who have died recently and all whose anniversaries occur around this time, commending them to the merciful love of God, especially: Thomas Reilly, Fr. Colin Golden, Janet Probert, Billy O'Donnell, Veronica Trenchard, Clare Frulloni, Mary Ritchie, Joan Cruickshank, Maggie O'Donnell, Tubby Wardlaw, Barry McDermott, Rhoda Reilly, Ernest & Vera Gowland and Frank Corrieri... Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Please also remember in your prayers those who are unwell at the moment, that the Good Lord will place His healing hand upon them and give strength to those who care for them.

Parish Weekly Collections:

<u>Our Lady of Lourdes (03 & 04/12/22)</u>	Total Plate Collection: £529.35	Direct Bank Payments: £91.15
	<u>Overall Total: £620.50</u>	
<u>St. James (03 & 04/11/22)</u>	Total Plate Collection: £	Direct Bank Payments: £600.00
	<u>Overall Total: £ (see next week)</u>	

The 'Direct Bank Payments' represent the weekly average of the overall amount paid directly into the respective parish accounts on a monthly basis.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support. Remember that the parish relies entirely upon your weekly contributions alone to keep going.

How about doing something extra for the 'mini-Lent' of the Advent Season and making a commitment to come to weekday Mass, or maybe even come to weekday Mass more often than you already do? There is no better thing we can do each day than come and worship the Lord in Holy Mass and receive Him in Holy Communion - a true foretaste of the union we hope to have with God in Heaven!

Saturday 17th December

(Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent , Year - A) (V)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Confessions 4.00 - 4.45p.m.

Vigil Mass 5.00p.m.

St. James' Parish:

Vigil Mass 7.00p.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

Sunday 18th December

The Third Sunday of Advent, Year - A (V)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 9.00a.m. (Children's Party afterwards)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 11.00a.m. (Children's Party afterwards)

During Advent we are having candlelight "Rorate" Masses in the parishes: Tuesday evenings in St. James' and Wednesday evenings in Our Lady of Lourdes'. These will be followed by hot chocolate and fellowship in the respective church halls. See following newsletters for further details - assistance in setting up for this (in the halls) would be greatly appreciated. During this period the *Lectio Divina* will be put on hold, to resume in the New Year.

This Sunday's readings from the Sacred Scriptures: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year - A.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6,10

God Himself is coming to save you.

Psalm 145(146)

Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

A reading from the Letter of St. James 5:7-10

Do not lose heart; the Lord's coming will be soon.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen'.

'Rorate Caeli' Masses for Advent

The season of Advent falls each year in the dark month of December and it is a month when we see the general theme of the liturgical season being echoed in nature. Darkness has crept over the world, and is increasing each day. Yet, there is hope for soon the days will begin to lengthen and the sun will conquer the night. The earth reveals that there is a light in this dark place and that Light reigns victorious. The Church makes this truth more visible with an ancient tradition (often forgotten) called the "Rorate" Mass. This votive Mass during Advent in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary receives its name from the first words of the opening chant in Latin, *Rorate Caeli*, or in English "Shower, O heavens." What is peculiar to this celebration of the Eucharist is that it is traditionally celebrated in the dark, only illuminated by candlelight. The symbolism of this Mass abounds and is a supreme expression of the Advent season.

Our 'Rorate' Masses will be celebrated in St. James', Kinross, at 7.00p.m. on 6th, 13th, and 20th December and in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, at 7.00p.m. on 7th, 14th, and 21st December. After the Masses in both parishes there will be hot chocolate and biscuits/cake in the respective church halls. (Volunteers to help with hot chocolate, etc. would be greatly appreciated). Those who have attended these Masses in the past have always found them especially beautiful and uplifting and a wonderful way to immerse oneself in the spirit of the Advent Season in union with Our Blessed Lady.

Times of Holy Mass & Confessions etc.



Monday 12th December

3rd Week of Advent (V)

St. James' Parish:

Funeral Mass of Mrs. Janet Probert 10.00a.m. (B)

Children's First Confessions during Catechism Class

Catechism Class after school for children of the parish - class ends at 4.30p.m.

Prayer Group in the church from 7.30 - 9.00p.m. - All are welcome to attend (includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & the Rosary)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Music Group practice in the church at 6.00p.m.

Tuesday 13th December

Memorial of St. Lucy (R)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

Holy Mass in St. John's High School at 1.05p.m.

St. James' Parish:

Confessions 6.15-6.45p.m.

'Rorate Caeli' Mass 7.00p.m.

Hot chocolate, etc. in the church hall after Holy Mass

Wednesday 14th December

Memorial of St. John of the Cross (W)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

Tea/Coffee in the church hall after Holy Mass - all are welcome, & church cleaning (volunteers most welcome)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Confessions 6.15-6.45p.m.

'Rorate Caeli' Mass 7.00p.m.

Hot chocolate, etc. in the church hall after Holy Mass

Thursday 15th December

3rd Week of Advent (V)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Friday 16th December

3rd Week of Advent (V)

No Public Mass

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

School Christmas Show 10.00a.m.

School Christmas Show 2.00p.m.



Warm spaces - a follow-on from our meetings recently...

A sincere thanks to all who managed to attend the meetings we had in Our Lady's and St. James' recently regarding the establishment of "warm spaces", the enthusiasm and willingness of parishioners to be involved in the initiative has been very inspiring. Our two meetings were very fruitful and came up with concrete ideas of when we will start, and already we have a good number of volunteers to help but are always looking for more to be involved.

In Our Lady of Lourdes' we decided that we would begin in the New Year on the afternoon of the **first Friday in January, 06/01/23**. As with both meetings we thought it better to begin in the New Year so as to avoid starting and then stopping for the Christmas Season, it seemed better to have continuity. The church hall will be open to anyone who wants to come along, every week, on Friday, **between the hours of 1.00 - 3.00p.m.** A warm space will be provided where people can socialise, rest, and enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits free of charge. We hope to provide board games, dominoes, etc. for those who might like to use them, and maybe even reading material for those who would just like to sit quietly and enjoy a good book. (Donations of good books, games, etc. for these purposes would be gratefully received, as would donations of tea, coffee, and biscuits closer to the time). We're also hoping to make a comfortable area in part of the hall with soft chairs, sofas and the like, and are looking to source them for a reasonable price). If anyone wants to be involved, or would like to know more, Maureen Hally has kindly agreed to be the 'contact person' for Our Lady's group, you can either catch her after Mass or be in touch with her on 07710246339.

In St. James' we had an equally fruitful meeting, and again thanks to all who were able to attend. Our ideas were very much the same as in Our Lady's, with our thinking that we would begin to open up our "warm space" on **Monday 16th January 2023, 1.00 - 3.00p.m.** in the church hall. Similarly, this would be a weekly occurrence where tea, coffee and biscuits, etc. would be available. Very kindly John Wheatley has agreed to the 'contact person' for anyone in St. James' parish who would like to know more or become involved in any way, and his number is 07814493579. Likewise, donations of games, tea and coffee and biscuits would always be appreciated closer to the time of this starting up.

Do let people know that they are very welcome to come along and that there is no charge for any of these services. Please pass on the message to those you think may benefit.

A number of people also gave their apologies, unable as they were to come along to the meetings on those evenings, if you still would like to be involved and be part on a rota for helping out please speak to the respective 'contact persons'. God bless you, Fr. Martin

Please remember to pray for the sick, the housebound and the lonely.

Advent Appeal

Thank you to those who have already, very kindly, brought in donations of toys and games to be distributed to children and families who might find themselves struggling over the Christmas period. To be able to share the blessings that God has given us is a wonderful thing, especially when we know that in doing so it might take the worry and the pressure off others' shoulders.

Giving to others reinforces the message of Christmas, the essential message, that God has given Himself to us in Jesus Christ, His Son. Our gifts are tokens of love, expressions of care and concern, signs of our willingness to share... and any gift, no matter how small it may be, given in love, is something truly precious... I am sure that all you have been able to give so far, and all that you intend to give for our Advent Appeal will be greatly appreciated by those who receive as a result of your generosity.

As a reminder we are kindly asking for donations of new and unused toys and board games in particular, a (all to remain unwrapped, please). The toys will go to children at school and the board games will form part of a "pack" which will be offered to families in need and hopefully will help families to have some enjoyment and fun together over the Christmas Season. Food for the "packs" will also be provided through other sources. (Help putting together and distributing these "packs" would also be appreciated closer to the time). Please then, if you can, bring in new and unused board games and toys which can be passed on to families in need who would otherwise struggle or perhaps put themselves in financial difficulties in order to bring some of the joy of Christmas to their children. From this point onward and just up until Christmas these items can be handed in at either St. James' or Our Lady of Lourdes'. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity, God bless, Fr. Martin

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 2023:

Please find below a list of the second collections that are mandated by the bishops throughout the year. Thank you for whatever support you are able to give, as every contribution helps. These second collections support other 'causes' within the Catholic Church, but we are always grateful for your weekly contributions to the parish in the collections and your offerings for the church building fund and so on. The parish does not receive hand-outs from the diocese but is self-sufficient and contributes, through the annual levy, to supporting the diocese as a whole, therefore your Saturday/Sunday offerings are vitally important and always appreciated..

Justice & Peace

8th January:-The Epiphany of the Lord

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

The Ecclesiastical Students Fund

19th. February;- 7th Sunday of the Year

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF)

19th March:- 4th Sunday of Lent

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

Holy Places

7th April:- Good Friday

Franciscan Friary, 557-559 High Road
Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

The Apostolate of Communications

21st May:- 7th Sunday of Easter

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

The Day for Life

28th May:- Solemnity of Pentecost

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

Peter's Pence

2nd July:- 13th Sunday of the Year

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

The Apostleship of the Sea

16th July:- 15th Sunday of the Year

39 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1BX

Bishops' Mensal Fund

6th August:- The Transfiguration of the Lord Finance Administrator, Curial Office

The Sick & Retired Priests Fund

10th September:- 23rd Sunday of the Year

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

Mission Sunday

22nd October:- 29th Sunday of the Year

Mission Matters Scotland, 4 Laird Street.
Coatbridge ML5 3LJ

Catholic Education Service

26th November:- Solemnity of Christ the King

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

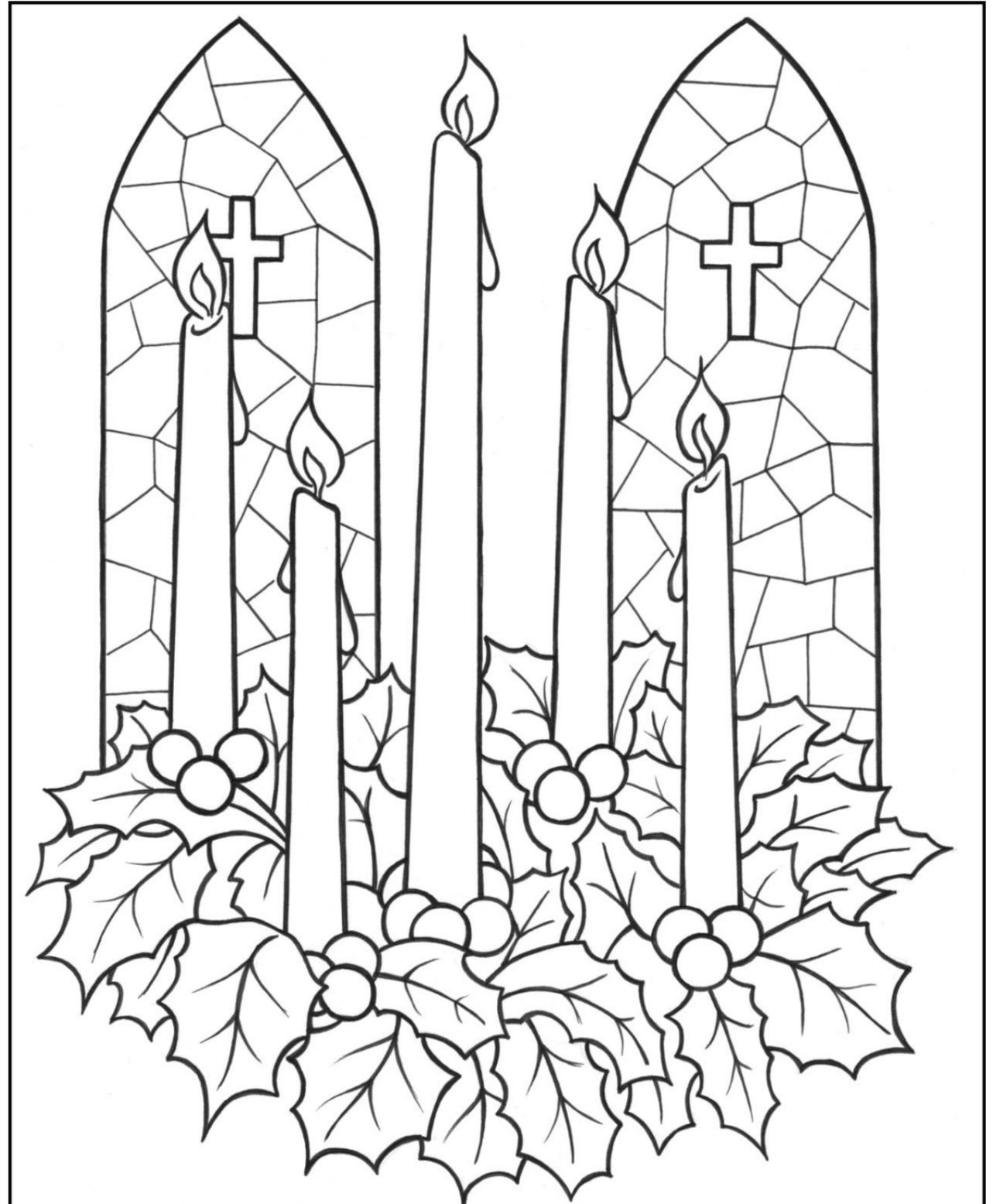
Poor Mission Fund

3rd. December:- 1st Sunday of Advent

Finance Administrator, Curial Office

Advent colouring page for the girls and boys of the parish...

If you didn't get a chance to do the wordsearch in last week's newsletter trying colouring in the picture below and hand it in at Mass on the weekend of 17th/18th December. All the boys and girls who hand in a wordsearch or a colouring page will receive a small Christmas gift at the end of Holy Mass. (1 white candle, 3 purple candles, one rose (pink) candle.



Advent Wreath With Christ Candel - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.