

ADVENT

Advent is the season that begins the Liturgical Year. It originated in the early Church as a **short period of intense preparation for the celebration of the nativity of the Lord on December 25**. Advent slowly came to be structured into four Sundays with proper readings and prayers. This season is marked by devout and joyful expectation as we recall the first humble coming of the Lord at Bethlehem. At the same time, we are invited to direct our mind and heart towards Christ's final coming in glory at the end of time. This is well expressed both in the Scripture readings, in the prayers as well as in the two parts into which Advent is divided.

During the first part of Advent, from the beginning until 16 December, the focus of the liturgy is on the second coming of the Lord, while during the second part, ***from 17 to 24 Decemer, the emphasis is on the immediate preparation for Christmas...***Our welcoming of the Lord in our daily life is the best way for us to prepare for his coming in glory at the end of time !

Daily Missal