

How to Make an Advent Wreath

There are many ways to construct an Advent wreath. It can be simple or elaborate, made from fresh material or from artificial greenery, so you can decide as a family which way is best. What is important is that you use something green, which symbolizes the new life brought to us by the birth of Jesus, and that it be circular as a reminder of eternity.

Many families place their wreath at the center of their dining room table. You may even decide to eat by candlelight and notice how much difference one candle makes in darkness. This should serve as a reminder to us that, as believers, we can make just as much of an impact in this world. Christ is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and Light overcomes darkness!

Artificial Advent Wreath Instructions

Supplies Needed:

- A plate or tray (to keep your arrangement together and portable)
- Artificial garland, branches from an artificial tree, or some other artificial greenery
- A candelabra or individual candle holders sized appropriately with your candles
- 4 purple candles (because the liturgical color of Advent is purple; or if you wish, 3 purples and 1 pink stemming from an old Catholic tradition) *Non-drip candles may work best*
- 1 larger white candle in the center

Instructions:

To make this wreath, arrange the candlesticks or candelabra on the tray. Place the greenery around the candles in a pleasant arrangement. It can be embellished with homemade crafts, red berries, a bow or pinecones, etc.

Fresh Advent Wreath Instructions

Supplies Needed:

- Shallow bowl or dish
- Oasis (also known as florist's foam, available from craft stores and florists)
- 4 purple candles (because the liturgical color of Advent is purple; or if you wish, 3 purples and 1 pink stemming from an old Catholic tradition) *Non-drip candles may work best*
- 1 larger white candle in the center
- Greenery: pine or cedar boughs or ivy

Instructions:

Soak the oasis in warm water until saturated. Fit it into the bowl, carving it and packing it in tightly so that it will not shift. Push all 5 candles into position in the foam. Stick your greenery into the oasis so that it completely covers the foam. Allow some to hang over the edges of the bowl and close to the bowl and close to the candles to be sure all the foam is hidden.