The most **colors** for the four  **Advent candles** are violet and rose, corresponding with the **colors** of the liturgical vestments for the Sundays of **Advent (PURPLE)**. ... As such, the third **candle**, (PINK) representing joy.

The Lord is near!!! REJOJICE!

“We get our word "manger" from the Latin (and so French, Italian, Spanish) root, which means simply "to eat."  Jesus comes, into the greatest place of our poverty, not only to be "with us" but to nourish us.  The manger can be the place we go this Christmas to be fed with the acceptance, love, and peace we need.  There is no place of darkness in which we need ever feel alone.  There is no situation, no loss, and no tragedy that need ever leave us empty.  There is no sin, no matter how selfish that will ever leave us apart from God's love.

We have prayed, "Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people.  We await your coming.  Come, O Lord."  Now, our eyes are opened to the wondrous joy of his coming to us in that manger 2,000 years ago, so that we will know and understand his coming to us in our hunger today, and ultimately so that we will long for his final coming to bring us to the banquet that has been prepared, to fill all our longing. “

~~Creighton Online Ministry





Dear Parishioners of St. Ephrem,

Now begins the Advent Season of the Church year…a busy time, for sure! Yet, Advent can be such a spiritually rich time, despite the card writing, shopping and the frenzy of the Christmas season. Let’s not forget about the spiritual opportunities of Advent.

“**Advent is the time to hope in promises, for hope and trust in the promise that Jesus is coming, to our homes and lives, to our hearts and minds. Of course, Jesus is already here. But there is the special sense of waiting, quietly, in the dark, for Christ in Christmas to enlighten us**

**We quiet ourselves and wait…”**

 *The Light of the World*, Phyllis Zagano

Each Sunday in Advent we light an additional candle---a visual reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World and it is through our words and actions that he lives among us with each fresh hour. We are, in a sense, giving life to Jesus in our world through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit in each of us.

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So, join me in prayer during this season of ***Waiting,*** that each of us may grow in ***patience***, patience with our shortcomings and those of others, patience with our “slow growth”, patience with our world, with our Church…

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**“Lord of Advent, may your wisdom illuminate our eyes and open our hearts to behold your presence in our midst. Help us to embrace the grace of Advent patience, that we may stop and behold your compassion and mercy in our days and transform our lives in the peace and hope of your dawning at Christmas.”**

[**http://www.mycatholicblog.com/seeking-advent-patience/Christmas**](http://www.mycatholicblog.com/seeking-advent-patience/Christmas)***”***

ST. EPHREM NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SICK AND ELDERLY PARISHIONERS

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