

## **In Short, During Advent**

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- Advent is short and can easily become overstuffed. In whatever you do during Advent, keep the season in perspective with the ways you keep other seasons.
- Simplify and pack away anything nonessential. With many things put away, give the room a thorough cleaning.
- Ornament Mary's shrine in a manner appropriate to Advent. Be sure to include an image of John the Baptist. Mary and John might be called the patron saints of the season.
- In most places around the country, it seems best to ornament the classroom during Advent with wintry colors and emblems. Celestial signs also seem to fit this season.
- There is no one right way to build an Advent wreath. If you have a wreath, the most important thing is to pray around it.
- Advent calendars have become a beautiful way to count down the days until Christmas. (However, "counting up" the days of Lent and of the Easter Season is a far more ancient tradition.) Again, there is no one right way to count the days as long as the count is kept. Creativity is in order here.
- The first part of Advent, until sunset on December 17, is the tail end of autumn. Leave some signs of the harvest and of late autumn. The second part, from the evening of December 17 until Christmas Eve, corresponds to the "Halcyon Days," the days of the solstice. This final week of the season has a unique character and is the time to prepare the classroom for Christmas.
- The gospel's nativity stories and the characters for those stories don't appear on the liturgical scene until the final week of Advent.

## **Advent**

- Seasonal vesture color: violet (rose on the third Sunday)
- Other seasonal vesture colors from the tradition: deep blue, light blue, black
- Some complementary colors: silver, white, gray, brown, forest green