

## *Advent Wreath by Deacon Allen*

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are placed, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken during this season. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. The third Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolize the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.