

The Advent Wreath

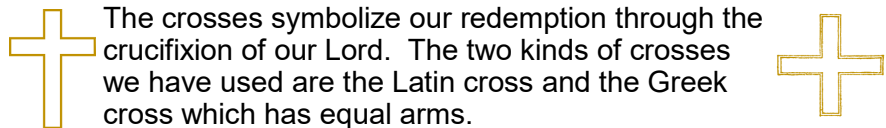
The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, represents the unending love of God. Evergreens adorning the wreath symbolize the hope of eternal life that God's people share. Even more, the various parts of evergreens have special Christian symbolism: the prickly leaves of holly remind us of the crown of thorns; cedar represents strength and healing; ivy reminds us of God's continuing support and love for us; the red berries remind us of Jesus' sacrifice for us; and pine cones, berries, nuts or seed pods used also symbolize the life and the resurrection. Finally, the four candles, 3 blue and 1 pink, set in the wreath represent the four weeks until Christmas Day, as well as the thousands of years people awaited the coming of the Messiah. The lighting of an additional candle each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the Light who came into the world at Jesus' birth. On Christmas an additional white candle is added for Jesus as the light of the world. All together the Advent wreath stands for the new, everlasting life promised to us through Jesus Christ, who truly is Emmanuel, "God with us."



The Chrismon Tree

The word "Chrismon" is a combination of parts of two words: Christ and monogram...a monogram of Christ. They are made in white and gold. White refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold to his majesty and glory. The white lights on the tree point to Christ as the Light of the World.

The crosses symbolize our redemption through the crucifixion of our Lord. The two kinds of crosses we have used are the Latin cross and the Greek cross which has equal arms.



The shepherd's crook refers to the eternal one, "the Lord is my Shepherd."



The five-pointed star is symbolic of the divinity of Jesus, the rose in the center symbolizes his humanness.



The crowns are symbols of the kingship of our Lord; his victory over sin and death.



An equilateral triangle, or three-part figure symbolizes the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

The fish was used by early Christians as a password during times of persecution. A fish that carries a basket of bread evokes a recollection of Jesus' miracles when he fed the multitude.



The manger symbolizes the baby Jesus and God as protector. A cross inside a circle is a symbol of eternity.

A circle symbolizes eternity. Three entwined circles are a symbol for the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons.



A cross over an orb (a ball) symbolizes our Lord's dominion over the earth. Does it remind you of the song, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"?

IHS stands for the first three letters of Jesus in the Greek alphabet.



Alpha and Omega, are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Since only God is before and after all things, it's a symbol of divinity.