

## ADVENT 2020: A SENSE OF PLACE

On Thanksgiving weekend when many of us cannot go to other places to celebrate the holiday with the people we love, the holy season of Advent begins. This year we are unable to celebrate the season and our customs in the same ways as we have done before. However, we are preparing some ways in which our sense of place in our church and in our homes may ground us in the love of God, help us to serve family, friends and strangers and open our hearts to hope for the future and spread it to others.

**In our worship** the Advent Candles will not be in the pews because there are so few people to make up the wreath. They will be in lanterns at the altar that will light our way to a sense of place called Church.

We will still have an empty manger, but cannot fill it at church. Here are some things you can begin to do now to more fully experience the Sense of Place which is church, home and your inner being.

- Make a manger at home in a craft project(see below for an example) or using any container, like a bowl or box which is meaningful to you. See below for an idea.
- Make an Advent Wreath and light it when we light the Advent Candles at the video Mass. These wreaths are limited only by four candles and your imagination. Some helpful websites: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/98657048058774629/> or <https://mariebostwick.com/diy-advent-wreath/>.
- Begin thinking about a special item that you have that is meaningful to you. Something that brings you joy, peace, hope, evokes a good memory. That gives you that sense of place in your life. Bring it to Mass on the Feast of Christ the King or have it with you that weekend when you watch the on-line Mass. We will bless those objects at that Mass and use them for contemplation during Advent.

### More about the manger:



At the live Mass we will have baskets with paper (straw) in the pews. You will be given time to ponder and respond to a question given to you by the homilist. You may take the straw home for your home manger. In the recorded Mass you will be asked to stop the video to ponder this question and place your response on paper straw in your manger. In the week before Christmas you are invited to come over during office hours or if you come to one of our Christmas Masses to place the straw you have collected in the manger. See *picture*.

For a guided meditation on sense of place, see this piece by Richard Rohr.

[CLICK HERE](#)

