

# THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me, walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)*



**WEEK 1**  
**Isaias**  
**Candle**

Isaias, known as “*The Messianic Prophet*”, is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. The Church has filled the Advent liturgy with his quotes. We light his candle first, because he was the oldest of the four ‘candles’, living around 700 years before Christ.



**WEEK 2**  
**Joseph**  
**Candle**

St. Joseph was the next oldest ‘candle’. He was born before Mary, St. John the Baptist and Jesus. He is the ‘silent man’ behind Jesus’ coming.



**CHRISTMAS**  
**MIDNIGHT**  
**Jesus**  
**Candle**

Jesus was born after all the other ‘candles’ and that is why we only light His candle at the end of Christmas Eve, after midnight, which is when He was born. He was “*was the light of men.... the light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*” (John 1:4-5).



**WEEK 3**  
**Mary**  
**Candle**

Our Lady is the third oldest ‘candle’, being born after St. Joseph, but before St. John the Baptist and Jesus. Her candle color is different for she was without Original Sin.



**WEEK 4**  
**John the**  
**Baptist**  
**Candle**

St. John the Baptist is the fourth candle, for he was born after Isaias, St. Joseph and Our Lady. He was born around 6 months before Our Lord and would be the prophet who would introduce Jesus to the world at His baptism.

The Candle burns itself out to give light to those around it. Let us burn ourselves out in the service of God, giving the light of Faith to those around us. Jesus said: “*You are the light of the world. Men do not light a candle and put it under a bucket, but on a candlestick, so it may shine to all in the house. So let your light shine before men*” (Matthew 5:14-16).