

# ADVENT CANDLES

## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Isaias was “the Messianic Prophet”; St. Joseph was “the Messianic Foster-Father” and Our Lady was “the Mother of the Messiah” for it was to Mary that God gave His only-begotten Son and she brought Him into the world.

If Isaias and St. Joseph had much to suffer, then Our Lady had much more to suffer—we even call her the “*Mother of Sorrows*”, since she was the Mother of whom Isaias calls, a “*Man of Sorrows*.” “*Despised, and the most abject of men, a Man of Sorrows*” (Isaias 53:3).

St. Simeon prophesies to Mary in the Temple, at the Presentation of Jesus, that: “*Thy own soul a sword shall pierce*” (Luke 2:35). Her life was one long sorrow, which she bore patiently and lovingly, in union with the sufferings of her Son, for the salvation of mankind.

Our Lady states to the Venerable Mary of Agreda, that: “I encourage thee, my daughter, to select the sufferings of Jesus’ Cross in preference to His favors and gifts and rather embrace afflictions than desire to be visited with caresses.

For in choosing favors and delights, you are moved by self-love, but in accepting tribulations and sorrows, you can only be moved by the love of Christ.

“And if preference is to be given to sufferings, rather than to delights, wherever it can be done without sin, what foolishness is it, when men so blindly seek the deceitful and sinful delights of the senses, and when they hate so much all that belongs to suffering for Christ and for the good of their soul?”  
(Words of Our Lady)

**The third candle—the rose candle—represents Our Blessed Lady. She comes third, because she was born after Isaias and St. Joseph, but before St. John the Baptist. She bears the color of a rose, since the rose is the queen of all flowers and Our Lady is the Queen of Heaven and earth.**

**Our Lady has a different color of candle as she is different to all other creatures, being free from the stain of Original Sin and all Actual Sin.**



*Our Lady*