

*November & December*

*AUTUMN AND ADVENT*

*It is a season of special colors.*

*The autumn colors are an extraordinary blend of brilliant (red and yellow) and muted (brown and gray) tones.*

*It is still autumn when Advent arrives. Here the liturgical colors are violet and blue, rose and white. There is no other liturgical season where the colors change as quickly, a change almost weekly.*

*Autumn and Advent end in winter. The colors fade and all is white, with the snow of December and the white altar linens of Christmas. There may be no other time of the year when the stars seem so bright.*

*Advent is a time of absence and waiting, of sorrow and anticipation. As darkness spreads into more hours of the day, we light advent candles and Christmas lights. This is our way of showing that the darkness cannot extinguish the light.*

*And such a light! On Christmas day we sing of Christ and hope, of birth and sunlight, of stars and mangers and gifts and promises fulfilled.*

*From autumn to Advent to Christmas, we are given a seasonal catechism of hope. There is always darkness in our lives; there are always shadows; but the light and colors and the nearness of God shine without ceasing.*

*Anthony*