

THE ADVENT PARAMENTS

BLUE is the color of HOPE! Advent is the season when the Christian sets his sights on the coming One who is the hope of the world. Indeed, Jesus Christ is our hope. He 'came' in the flesh as one of us; He continues to be our hope as He 'comes' with the Good News of sins forgiven through Word and Sacrament; and we look forward in hope as we wait for His 'coming again' on that great and final day when He will say to His own: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (*Matthew 25:34*). Blue is the color of hope; hope in Him who has come, now is come, and again will come. The Alpha and Omega, the First and Last, the Beginning and End.



The Lectern

Isaiah the prophet said, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear "fruit" (*Isaiah 11:1*). This parament reminds us that Jesus is the "righteous branch" that comes from the stump and roots of Jesse. Jesse is the father of King David. So, our hope is in the One who is to be born into a royal family, Jesus, the King of Kings!

The Pulpit

The Rose of Sharon is a symbol of the Nativity and of Messianic Prophecy from *Isaiah 35:1*, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus (aka rose); it shall bloom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God." Carmel refers to 'Mt. Carmel' where Isaiah compares the coming kingdom to the excellence of Carmel's great forests, water and nature preserve. Sharon is located between Joppa and Mt. Carmel. Sharon is a very fertile plain and well-watered garden area.



The Stoles and Altar Paraments

The completeness and timelessness of the Word made flesh, Jesus, is portrayed by the Alpha and Omega (*Revelation 22:13*), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.