



Little Door to the First of December

„Advent, Advent, ein Lichtlein brennt...“
– One little light is shining during Advent time



It's the beginning of the most known German poem which refers to the time until Christmas. "Advent" is derived from the Latin word "Adventus" which means "coming", it refers to the four Sundays before Christmas until the Nativity of Christ is celebrated in Western churches.

The first Advent always falls between November 27 and December 3.

Then, each Sunday, a candle is lit on an Advent wreath with green twigs which serves as a protection against evil during the winter months. The twigs symbolize life and fertility.

Traditionally, the time is spent singing traditional songs, eating holiday cookies (Plätzchen) or reading the Bible story of Christmas. The advent I remember the most was the one where I got little Pokémon finger figures in my Advent calendar (they have a hole beneath so you can stick them on your fingers, pretty good quality and I still like to collect them from time to time), not every day but I think every 4th day I got one behind a little door (Türchen).

(-> [Kaiserslautern American](#))

Did you know that the first time Advent was celebrated was in the 4th century?

Back then it was just three weeks long and characterized by prayers and fasting.

The role model was the Passiontide, the time of fasting before Eastern.

In Rome it was first celebrated in the 6th century, but instead of four it was six Sundays.

Pope Gregory I., also called the Great ([born](#) ca. 540 – March 12, 604), reduced it to four Sundays. The **Second Council of Trent** (1545-1563) set the Advent time to four weeks for the entirety of the church. Milan being the sole exception to the rule (still six weeks).

(-> [Wie und warum feiern wir Advent?](#))