Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree custom is a pictorial celebration of the Jewish history and ancestry of Jesus. Picture-symbols are hung upon a tree, each representing a fragment of the story of the Jewish people leading up to Jesus who is, for Christians, the fulfilment of the prophesies contained in the Hebrew Scriptures. Each person represented by the symbols has, in some way, helped prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah.

The carrying out of this tradition involves obtaining a tree branch or small evergreen tree on which to hang the symbols, and perhaps a brief passage of Scripture related to the person depicted. The symbols may be hung on the tree throughout the season of Advent.

Those represented on the tree include Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph (coat of many colours), Judah, Ruth, David, Solomon, Joseph (husband of Mary), the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ her Son.
Jesse Tree Symbols - First week of Advent

First Sunday of Advent
1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13

First Tuesday of Advent
Genesis 3: 1 – 24

First Wednesday of Advent
Genesis 6: 11 – 28, 8: 6 – 12

First Thursday of Advent
Genesis 12: 1 – 7, 15: 9 – 18

First Friday of Advent
Genesis 22: 1 – 14

First Saturday of Advent
Genesis 27: 41 – 28: 22