

## Creating your Advent Ornaments:

### Preparing your ornaments:

- Color the ornament of the week with either colored pencils or markers. Colors will deepen as you bake them. (Ornament images are available under the Ornament Coloring Pages tab of the Advent web-page if you would like to print additional coloring sheets to occupy all hands).
- Cut the ornament carefully following the dotted cut lines. You will want to cut just *inside* the lines and be sure to avoid cutting too close to the hole for the string.

### Baking your ornaments:

- Preheat oven between 300 and 350 degrees. Once the oven is preheated, pre-heat any pans you will be using for at least five minutes (this will help the ornaments bake evenly). Test bake with a scrap piece of shrink paper (use the pieces you trimmed off the ornament) to determine the best baking temperature and time.
- Start by using a heavyweight cookie sheet, layer it with the parchment paper provided, add the ornament, and top with another layer of parchment paper, and finally a lightweight cookie sheet if you have one. (You're sandwiching the ornament so it bakes flat.) Do not bake on bare metal or any stoneware. (An aluminum brownie pan, or Pyrex baking dish works great to hold the film in place while it shrinks.) If you don't have a second pan and the ornament curls during baking, rolling a drinking glass over Shrink Film is a great way to flatten it after baking.
- Heat for approximately 2-3 minutes and check status. Add time or adjust temperature as needed.
- Allow to cool.
- Add hanging string and display on your tree.
- Keep your parchment paper for the next week's ornament.