



FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 3 <i>Bless</i> your Advent wreath today! Light one of the violet candles marking the season's first week as you sing a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	4 Have fun making a Jesse tree today! You can add to it every day until Christmas and learn about Jesus's heritage.	5 Have you started Christmas shopping yet? Consider buying your gifts Fair Trade this year.	6 Today is the Feast of St. Nicholas, a saint known for giving gifts to the poor. How will you help the poor this Advent season?	7 "We have to reach out to others and seek their good" (Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i> , no. 9). Make a list of where you see good in others.	8 Today we honor Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was born without sin. Take time to pray to her today.	9 St. Juan Diego welcomed Our Lady of Guadalupe and did her bidding. Remember him today by praying for immigrants and newcomers to your parish or community.
10 Light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath today as you pray for all priests and religious brothers and sisters in your parish.	11 "If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 Jn 1:10). Have you gone to confession this Advent?	12 Pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe today that she may help us in "bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society."	13 Today's feast of St. Lucy is marked by pageants and festivals in Scandinavia & Italy. Research an Advent or Christmas custom of your own family's ethnic heritage and try it this year!	14 St. John of the Cross, whom we honor today, was known for his deep spirituality and compassion. Make a list of how you help others in your community.	15 Make it a family movie night tonight! Pick out your favorite Christmas movie and watch it together.	16 On this day, Latin Americans begin las Posadas —reenactments of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem. Pray for the difficult journeys of migrants and refugees.
17 On Gaudete Sunday, we light the rose (pink) candle on the Advent wreath and shift our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near."	18 Start adding the "O Antiphons" into your mealtime or bedtime prayer. Only one more week until Christmas!	19 Take time today to bless the family crèche . Based on your family's tradition, you may hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.	20 As Christmas draws nearer and we wrap presents, remember the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."	21 As we draw nearer to Christmas, take a moment to lift up in prayer the struggles faced by neighbors in your community and around the world.	22 Bless your Christmas tree tonight and sing "Silent Night" as a family.	23 Practice sharing your faith with others by carrying the spirit of evangelization with you into the Christmas season and beyond.
24 Read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-4) together as a family and reflect on the gift of Christ's life.						 Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quotes from Pope Francis, copyright © 2013, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Photo: CNS/Lisa Johnston.

