



FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>December 3</p> <p>Bless 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."</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Have fun making a Jesse tree today! You can add to it every day until Christmas and learn about Jesus's heritage.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Have you started Christmas shopping yet? Consider buying your gifts Fair Trade this year.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>7</p> <p>"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.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Today we honor Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was born without sin. Take time to pray to her today.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath today as you pray for all priests and religious brothers and sisters in your parish.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"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?</p>	<p>12</p> <p>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."</p>	<p>13</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>14</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Make it a family movie night tonight! Pick out your favorite Christmas movie and watch it together.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>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."</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Start adding the "O Antiphons" into your mealtime or bedtime prayer. Only one more week until Christmas!</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Take time today to bless the family crèche. Based on your family's tradition, you may hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>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."</p>	<p>21</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bless your Christmas tree tonight and sing "Silent Night" as a family.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Practice sharing your faith with others by carrying the spirit of evangelization with you into the Christmas season and beyond.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-4) together as a family and reflect on the gift of Christ's life.</p>						