



GIFT: GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

**LITURGICAL SEASON 2 PLAYLIST:
ADVENT: PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS**

Listen

- *Hope: A Shard of Light in the Shadows*, a 2-part audio by Fr. John Schlegel, S.J. for an Advent Day of Reflection, (15-17 min.) [Creighton University Advent Retreat](#)
- “Hey Mary!” A lovely song and video from New Zealand for young children that explores the moment when Mary receives the amazing news from the angel. [Hey Mary!](#) (3 min.)

Read

- How is Advent like walking the Camino? From the Virginia Theological Seminary, read “Advent is a Pilgrimage: Wear Comfortable Shoes”. [Advent is a Pilgrimage](#)
- A busy Catholic’s guide to Advent: 10 tips. [10 Tips for Observing Advent](#) from NCR.
- What are the symbols of the Jesse Tree? [The Jesse Tree](#)

Watch

- “Advent in Two Minutes” from BustedHalo.com [Advent in Two Minutes](#)
- Bishop Barron on location in Israel: *This Isn’t the Sentimental Christmas Story*, [The Real Christmas Story](#) (24 min.)
- With your children, watch the humorous and delightful play, “Christmas According to Kids” [Christmas according to Kids](#)” (3 min.)
- “Best Advent Ever!” Sign up for daily email video and reflections from Matthew Kelly with Dynamic Catholic. [Best Advent Ever](#)

Participate

- “Advent Calendars 2020.” Mark the days leading up to Christ’s coming. Here are many wonderful calendar choices: [Advent Calendar 2020](#)
- Create a Reverse Advent Calendar which focuses on giving instead of receiving: [Reverse Advent Calendar](#), then take your collection to a food pantry or other organization.
- “Buy Less Shopping Guide” What do you have to offer the people you love? [Buy Less Shopping Guide](#) (This is a safe site)
- Bless your Advent wreath. [Blessing of Advent Wreath](#)
- For a young family: “Christmas Giving for Children in Need”. [Christmas Giving](#) (Safe source)



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Pray with Art

- Advent *Visio Divina*: Deepen your experience of the Advent season with a prayerful video commentary about a work of art inspired by the Sunday Scripture. [Arts and Faith in Advent](#)
- Meditations #AdventWord. Join an international community of prayer this Advent, using *visio divina*, reflecting with art and a short video or podcast meditation. A Global Advent Calendar at [Advent Word](#)



Pray and Reflect

- Pray the "O Antiphons" from Dec. 17 to 23. [Advent O Antiphons](#)
- Nurture your spirituality daily with "An Online Advent Calendar for Adults", with Loyola Press. Find this special online experience at [Advent Calendar for Adults](#)
- A Children's Advent Calendar by Loyola Press. [Children's Advent Calendar](#)

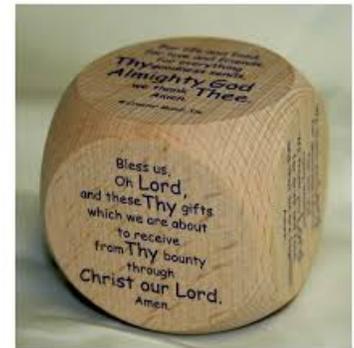


TABLE BLESSINGS

A TABLE PRAYER FOR ADVENT

As we prepare for the coming of your Son, O God,
we give you thanks for this food and drink,
signs of your gracious love.
May this meal strengthen us to share your gifts to us
with the hungry and all who look for your justice and mercy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSINGS CUBE

Before every meal roll a die to pick your blessing. Make your own. Paste a different prayer or blessing on each side of a cube or large die (or number 6 blessings and read the blessing of the number rolled). Here are 6 blessings to start with; be creative and create your own family favorites.

1. We love our bread, we love our butter; but most of all we love each other. (Ludwig Bemelmans)
2. For each new morning with its light; For rest and shelter of the night; For health and food; For love and friends; For everything your goodness sends. Amen. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
3. (sing to the tune of "Frère Jacques") We are thankful, we are thankful. We are glad, we are glad, for the many blessings, for the many blessings, that we have, that we have. Amen.
4. God is great, God is good. Let us thank God for our food.
5. For food that stays our hunger; for rest that brings us ease; for homes where memories linger; we give our thanks for these.

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6. Be present at our table, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. Your people bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with you. Amen. (John Wesley)