



















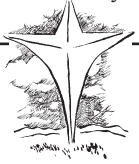





Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p>  <p>Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle each night this week and reread today's Gospel reading: Mark 13:33-37.</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Read together about Elizabeth and Zechariah's special blessing in Luke 1:5-25.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Set up and bless your Nativity scene, but leave out the Holy Family.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Make cookies to bring to a nearby nursing home or homeless shelter.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Together, write your Christmas cards. Let older kids address the envelopes and younger ones seal them.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>As you purchase gifts this year, consider adding one for a struggling family in your parish. Ask at your parish office for guidance.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Attend Confession as a family and have a special family dinner afterward to celebrate forgiveness!</p>
<p>7</p>  <p>Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight.</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Take a long walk today in honor of St. Juan Diego and the long journey he took in obedience to Our Lady.</p>	<p>10 YES!</p> <p>Read about the angel's remarkable visit to Mary in Luke 1:26-38. Talk about ways we can also say, "yes," to God.</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Set the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the rest of the scene.</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a "Hail Mary" whenever you pass it.</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>Gather gently used clothing and toys in like-new condition and donate them to a homeless shelter.</p>
<p>14</p>  <p>Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today.</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it.</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Move Mary and Joseph closer to the Nativity scene. Try to imagine what it was like to travel to Bethlehem by donkey.</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day.</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Send Christmas cards to your pastor, priests, and religious or ordained ministers who are important to your family.</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Put up your Christmas tree but only place a few decorations each day until Christmas Eve.</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Light a candle and sit in silence for 15 minutes. Focus on whom it is you are waiting.</p>
<p>21</p>  <p>Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Read today's Gospel reading, Luke 1:26-38</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-14) and reflect on the gift of life given to us by God.</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready.</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Finish decorating your Christmas tree and light it as a symbol of Christ, Light of the World.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Put the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20.</p>  <p><i>While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:6)</i></p>		