

# Advent 2019

## CALENDAR

### Daily Advent Activities for Families

#### DECEMBER

#### SUN 1

Prepare an Advent wreath: three purple candles, one pink candle, and some evergreens. Place all on a tray or large plate. The candles can symbolize hope, faith, joy, and love or peace. Light the first purple candle and pray to God about the things you hope for.

#### MON 2

Make a nativity scene with household materials. Paint paper tubes to make the Holy Family. Use bits of fabric to make clothes. Use a shoebox to make the barn and a small box for the manger. Wait for Christmas Day to put Jesus in the manger.

#### TUE 3

People hoped and waited for so long for Jesus to come and bring light to the world! Share stories about the ways parents prepared and how they felt as they waited for their children to be born. Older siblings can share stories of waiting for younger siblings. Look through the first photographs taken of your children. Pray about your hopes for your family.

#### WED 4

The Christmas story begins with one small family set to change the world. On yellow strips of paper, write ways that your family can help bring light and hope to your community during Advent. Keep the papers in a jar. As you complete these actions, place them in the nativity scene you made to act as hay.

#### THUR 5

Mary and Joseph were immigrants traveling far from their home when Jesus was born. Try sleeping in a different place in your house tonight. Swap beds with a sibling or sleep in a sleeping bag on the floor. Thank God for the comforts of your home.

#### FRI 6

##### *Feast of Saint Nicholas*

Listen to a story about the legendary gift giver. Make or buy a small, thoughtful gift for someone you know.

#### SAT 7

On Christmas Day, children may receive new gifts and new toys. Go through the toys you have and donate ones that you have outgrown to a local charity.



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**SUN 8**

#### ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception***

Honor Mary, Mother of God by praying the Hail Mary today. Mary is Jesus' mother. Take special care of your mother or a mother figure in your life today. Light the second purple Advent candle. Pray to God to be faithful even when it is difficult.

**MON 9**

#### ***Feast of Saint Juan Diego***

Juan Diego lived in Mexico, and Mary appeared to him. Read the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Eat a Mexican meal today and pray the Hail Mary before your meal in honor of Saint Juan's devotion to Mary.

**TUE 10**

Make Christmas cookies and deliver them as gifts. Consider your local fire station or the teachers at your school as recipients.

**WED 11**

Sing Christmas hymns together.

**THUR 12**

#### ***Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe***

Mary made flowers appear as proof of her apparition. Bring real flowers or a drawn bouquet to someone you know.

**FRI 13**

#### ***Feast of Saint Lucy***

Saint Lucy wore a wreath of candles to light her way while carrying supplies to Christians hiding in the catacombs. Eat dinner by candlelight tonight. Appreciate how small flames can bring light to a dark space.

**SAT 14**

During Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Donate baby supplies to a local charity.



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**SUN 15**

#### ***Gaudete Sunday***

Light the pink Advent candle. This candle is a symbol of joy because we are at the midpoint of Advent. Pray about things that make you joyful and the ways you bring joy to others. Today at Mass, notice that the priest will be wearing pink vestments!

**MON 16**

Read Matthew 2:1-12 as a family and learn about the Magi who followed the star to find Jesus after his birth. Go outside with your family tonight and do some stargazing. Pray about the beautiful world that God has created for us.

**TUE 17**

*O Wisdom of our God Most High!*  
Today begins the O Antiphons. These are special prayers as the birth of Jesus draws closer. Pray to God about areas of your life where you need the gift of wisdom to grow.

**WED 18**

*O Leader of the House of Israel!*  
Pray for help to follow Jesus' leadership. Demonstrate good leadership to younger classmates and siblings.

**THUR 19**

*O Root of Jesse's Stem!*  
Jesse and King David were Jesus' ancestors. Send or deliver Christmas cards to family and friends.

**FRI 20**

*O Key of David!*  
Jesus opens doors that seem difficult to open. Pray about ways to overcome things that may be difficult for you. Open your home to a small gathering of friends and family to celebrate the Christmas season.

**SAT 21**

*O Radiant Dawn!*  
Jesus is our light! Shut off the house lights and all electronics after dinner and enjoy the light of the Christmas tree together as a family.



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SUN 22

*O King of All Nations!*

Jesus is the king who unites us all. Read about how other countries and cultures celebrate the traditions of Christmas. Consider adopting one of these new traditions in your family. Light the fourth Advent candle. Consider ways you can bring peace and love to others.

MON 23

*O Emmanuel!*

We believe that Jesus is with us always. Call or visit someone who could use your company today.

TUE 24

Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Read the nativity story in the Bible together as a family.

WED 25

**Christmas**

Christ is Born! Let us rejoice! Thank God for the greatest gift, the gift of his only Son! Put the figurine of the baby Jesus you made for the nativity scene in the manger.

**Additional seasonal resources for families:**

[www.SadlierReligion.com/Resources](http://www.SadlierReligion.com/Resources)

[www.SadlierReligionBlog.com](http://www.SadlierReligionBlog.com)

