



FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>December 2</p> <p>Begin this journey of Advent by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Try reading or listening to the daily Mass readings together as a family, as part of your preparation for Christmas this year.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>As you reflect on Mary's journeys to see her kinswoman Elizabeth and then to find shelter in Bethlehem, pray for migrants traveling to find family, hope, and safe haven around the world today.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ever wonder where the phrase "O Root of Jesse's stem" comes from? Research how to make a Jesse tree and dive into Christ's lineage.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>On this feast day of St. Nicholas, we remember his abundant generosity to the poor. Together, can your family purchase a gift from a giving tree this year for a person or family in need?</p>	<p>7</p> <p>It's the first Friday of Advent! Start a Friday family tradition of praying a decade of the Rosary before bedtime. Brush up on rosary prayers here: www.usccb.org/rosary.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, attend Mass as a family and add the Hail Mary to your pre-meal prayers.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>On this Second Sunday of Advent, light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath and consider donating to a special collection for retired religious today.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>"The Lord promises refreshment and freedom to all the oppressed of our world, but he needs us to fulfill his promise. He needs our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters." (Pope Francis, July 6, 2018)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph themselves were refugees in Egypt... the Holy Family has become a figure with whom Christian migrants and refugees throughout the ages can identify, giving them hope and courage in hard times." (USCCB, <i>Strangers No Longer</i>, no. 26)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>On her feast day, pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and maybe plan to enjoy some <i>pan de dulce</i> and hot chocolate as a family!</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Today's Memorial of St. Lucy is marked by pageants and festivals in Scandinavia & Italy. Research an Advent custom of your 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. Reflect today on what more your family can do to prepare spiritually for Christmas in these last 10 days of Advent.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Do remember Jesus was a refugee? How much does your family know about the plight of refugees today? Use this guide to help answer questions.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Pray for migrants seeking shelter around the world today.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Yesterday was Gaudete Sunday when we shifted our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." Rejoice! You are more than half way to Christmas!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>"Christ saved men not with thunder and lightning, but as a weeping babe in the manger and as a silent sufferer upon the cross" (St. Jerome, <i>Letters</i>, 82.1). Reflect on the humility of Christ today.</p>	<p>19</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). Go to confession as a family this season and enjoy Christmas with a clean hearts and peaceful souls, thanks to God's mercy.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Take time today to bless the family crèche. (Based on your family's tradition, you may choose to hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Make this Friday night a family movie night and watch a Christmas classic together.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>We learn in today's Gospel that Mary spent three months with her kinswoman Elizabeth before returning home. Thousands of travelers today are traveling to look for a new home. Read some of their stories.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Add this "O Antiphon" to your daily or meal-time prayer today: "O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!" (<i>Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition</i>, 77)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Mt 1:23)</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quotes from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>				

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