













Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 Buy or make an Advent wreath. Have the youngest child light the first violet candle this week. Read <i>Luke 21:25-28, 34-36</i>.</p> 	<p>30 Set up the Nativity scene together. (Leave out the Holy Family.) Picture yourself in the scene and talk about how you would act if you were part of it.</p>	<p>1 December Make Christmas cookies together and decorate them with symbols of the Christmas season.</p> 	<p>2 In your Christmas cards, write a note about the blessings you received this year as a witness to God's love for your family and all families.</p>	<p>3 Set a timer or other reminder to help you get up five minutes earlier than usual and pray as a family every morning during Advent.</p>	<p>4 FAMILY STORY NIGHT! Read your favorite Christmas stories over cookies and milk before bedtime tonight.</p>	<p>5 Make a "manger" for the Baby. Take a box and place a piece of straw, made of a strip of paper, for every good deed done throughout the Advent season.</p>
<p>6 Let the oldest child light two violet candles in the Advent wreath and read <i>Luke 3:1-6</i>.</p> 	<p>7 Today, try to make at least one generous act of love in honor of St. Nicholas. Do it in secret, the way he did.</p> 	<p>8 The feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's birth without Original Sin. Attend Mass as a family and pray a family Rosary.</p>	<p>9 Today, let nothing discourage you in honor of St. Juan Diego who placed his trust in Jesus and his Mother.</p> 	<p>10 Read about the legend behind the poinsettia, then make a bouquet from felt or construction paper and pipe cleaners.</p>	<p>11 Even if you live alone, put up a Christmas tree. Decorate a little each day until it is beautiful for Christmas.</p>	<p>12 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 Gaudete Sunday Joy! The halfway point of Advent. Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Read <i>Luke 3:10-18</i>.</p> 	<p>14 Using markers, crayons, colored paper, or whatever cheerful supplies you have around the house, make cards to give to your priests and parish staff.</p>	<p>15 Draw names randomly and write a love note to the family member you chose. Leave it on his or her pillow tonight.</p> 	<p>16 At dinner tonight, sing your favorite carols. Who can remember all the words to "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"?</p>	<p>17 Place Mary and Joseph near the Nativity scene. Pray an "Our Father," a "Hail Mary," and a "Glory Be" as you think about the coming birth of their Baby.</p>	<p>18 Help children to make a good examination of conscience and go to Confession as a family. Then go out for a treat afterwards to celebrate forgiveness.</p>	<p>19 Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.</p> 
<p>20 Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Reread today's Gospel Reading, <i>Luke 1:39-45</i>.</p> 	<p>21 Put Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Remember that this can be a sad time for those who are alone or away from home. Include someone in your own gatherings who might otherwise be forgotten.</p>	<p>22 Give up arguing and bickering today. Resolve to say only kind words to everyone. What a great gift of love to give the coming Savior!</p>	<p>23 Talk about Biblical accounts of God's mercy to sinners. Ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt.</p>	<p>24 Write a letter to Jesus, thanking him for all the gifts you received throughout the year.</p> 	<p>25 Rejoice! Place the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in <i>Luke 21-20</i>. Think of how joyful it will be to meet Jesus when he comes again.</p> 	



"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).

