

Advent 2023

CALENDAR

Daily At-Home Advent Activities for Families

◆ DECEMBER ◆

SUN 3

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 4

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 5

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.

WED 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.

THUR 7

Mary and Joseph were 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 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.

SAT 9

Feast of Saint Juan Diego

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



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SUN 10

Sing Christmas hymns together. Light the second purple Advent candle. Pray to God to be faithful even when it is difficult.

MON 11

As you prepare for Jesus' coming, plan a day and time for family members to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

TUE 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Read the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sing a favorite hymn that honors Mary.

WED 13

Choose family prayer partners. Print each family member's name on an index card; decorate it; fold it in half and place in a basket. Pass the basket around and have each family member pick a name. Pray for that person during Advent.

THUR 14

Make Christmas cookies and share them together. Thank God for the gifts of food and family.

FRI 15

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.

SAT 16

Gather together for a meal and begin with a blessing. Make a plan to donate a meal to a person or family in need in your community.



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SUN 17

Gaudete Sunday

Light the pink Advent candle. This candle is a symbol of joy because we are at the midpoint of Advent. Today also begins the o Antiphons. O *Wisdom of our God Most High!* Pray to God about areas of your life where you need the gift of wisdom to grow.

MON 18

O *Leader of the House of Israel!*

Pray for help to follow Jesus' leadership. Demonstrate good leadership to younger classmates and siblings.

TUE 19

O *Root of Jesse's Stem!*

Jesse and King David were Jesus' ancestors. Send Christmas cards to family and friends.

WED 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.

THUR 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.

FRI 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 traditions in your family.

SAT 23

O *Emmanuel!*

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



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SUN 24

Light the fourth Advent candle.
Consider ways you can bring peace and love to others. Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Read the nativity story in the Bible together as a family.

MON 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.

