

























Family Advent Calendar

David J. Conrad

Director of Faith Formation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle each night this week.</p> 	<p>3 Come up with a short prayer that you can say together as a family each morning during Advent.</p> 	<p>4 Set up the Nativity scene but leave out the Holy Family.</p> 	<p>5 In honor of St. Francis Xavier, patron of Catholic Missions, pray today for all who bring the Gospel to people overseas.</p> 	<p>6 To honor St. Nicholas, fill an old shoe with treats and leave it outside someone's door.</p> 	<p>7 Take turns playing "Name that Christmas hymn." Winner gets to pick dessert.</p> 	<p>8 In honor of Mary's conception free from Original Sin (Immaculate Conception), attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight.</p> 
<p>9 Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."</p> 	<p>10 Put up the Christmas tree. Decorate it a little each night until it's ready for Christmas.</p> 	<p>11 Find time this week to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in your church -- even if it's just for a few minutes.</p> 	<p>12 Place a rose in a vase today in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.</p> 	<p>13 Commit to going the whole day only speaking kindly to one another.</p> 	<p>14 Make hot chocolate and watch a Christmas movie together.</p> <p>Family Movie Night!</p>	<p>15 Decorate sugar cookies with symbols that remind you of Jesus' birth. Share them with loved ones.</p> 
<p>16 Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today.</p> 	<p>17 As a family, vote on a local charity to pray for each night this week. Bonus: Make a small donation if you can.</p> 	<p>18 Help children make an examination of conscience, then go to Confession together. Go out for a treat after to celebrate.</p> 	<p>19 Place the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the rest of the scene. Move them slowly across the room each day this week.</p> 	<p>20 At dinner tonight, have everyone take turns sharing a favorite Christmas memory.</p> 	<p>21 Christmas is a stressful time of year for parishes. Send thank-you notes to the rectory staff, showing appreciation for what they do.</p>	<p>22 Write letters to Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming.</p> 
<p>23 Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Reread today's Gospel Reading, <i>Luke 1:39-45</i>.</p> 	<p>24 Place Mary, Joseph, and the empty manger in the Nativity scene.</p> 	<p>25 Rejoice! Place the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>.</p> 	<p><i>"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. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 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 place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i></p>			