








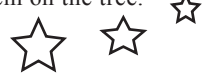



















Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 December Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle each night this week.</p> 	<p>2 Set up your family Nativity scene with the empty manger. Add other major figures gradually throughout the season.</p> 	<p>3 Consider buying a gift for a struggling family in your parish. Ask the parish office for suggestions.</p> 	<p>4 At dinner tonight, pray for troops stationed overseas and their families this season.</p> 	<p>5 Today, resolve as a family to only say kind, encouraging things to each other.</p> 	<p>6 Show love on St. Nicholas' Day by doing a secret good deed for someone else.</p> 	<p>7 Put up a Christmas tree. Have each family member put an ornament on every day until it is beautiful for Christmas.</p> 
<p>8 Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."</p> 	<p>9 In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight.</p> 	<p>10 Cut star-shaped ornaments out of colored paper. Decorate with glitter on one side and your favorite Bible verse on the other. Hang them on the tree.</p> 	<p>11 This can be a sad time for those who have lost someone or are alone. Include anyone in your gathering who might otherwise be forgotten.</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 Make time to visit the church when Mass isn't celebrated. You can sit and pray together quietly, or just show the little ones around.</p> 	<p>14 Gather with friends and go Christmas caroling. Warm up with hot chocolate afterward.</p> 
<p>15 Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today.</p> 	<p>16 Give each family member a chance to say "thank you" for a blessing God has given this year.</p> 	<p>17 Make Christmas cookies and decorate them with symbols of the season. Bring them to a nursing home or homeless shelter.</p> 	<p>18 Christmas can be a stressful time for parishes. Send or make thank-you notes to your priests or parish staff.</p> 	<p>19 Write letters to Baby Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming at Christmas. Read them aloud on Christmas Eve.</p> 	<p>20 Have a family story night. Reread your favorite Christmas storybooks over cookies and milk.</p> 	<p>21 Attend Confession together to ready your hearts for the Savior. Go out to dinner afterward to celebrate forgiveness.</p> 
<p>22 Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Reread today's Gospel reading, Matthew 1:18-24.</p> 	<p>23 Resolve as a family to pray for at least 15 minutes every night during the coming year.</p> 	<p>24 Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready for the Baby.</p> 	<p>25 Rejoice! Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20. Think of how joyful it will be to meet Jesus when he comes again.</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>		