



# 2012 FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2-24  
WWW.USCCB.ORG/ADVENT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> <a href="#">Bless</a> the Advent wreath. Sing "O Come Emmanuel" and light the first candle.	<b>3</b> Consider purchasing Christmas gifts that support farmers and artisans and their families <a href="#">in developing countries</a> and in <a href="#">poor communities in the United States</a> .	<b>4</b> Make plans to receive the <a href="#">Sacrament of Penance</a> before Christmas.	<b>5</b> Research an Advent or Christmas custom of your family's ethnic heritage and try it this year.	<b>6</b> Read the story of <a href="#">St. Nicholas</a> . If you know an engaged couple, pray for them and perhaps give them a small gift.	<b>7</b> Does your parish have a Giving Tree? Shop for the person or family whose name you picked.	<b>8</b> On this <a href="#">feast of the Immaculate Conception</a> , sing a hymn in honor of Mary at the evening meal.
<b>9</b> Light the second candle on the Advent wreath. Recite " <a href="#">A Family Prayer for the Year of Faith</a> ."	<b>10</b> Buy a poinsettia for your home and read <a href="#">The Legend of the Poinsettia</a> .	<b>11</b> Bless and light the Christmas tree. Be a light to others! Register for the <a href="#">2013 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering</a> and advocate with others on behalf of the most vulnerable	<b>12</b> Read the story of <a href="#">Our Lady of Guadalupe's</a> appearance to St. Juan Diego. Put flowers before the family's statue or picture of Mary.	<b>13</b> Remember the hardships many low-income people face on a daily basis. Visit <a href="#">PovertyUSA.org</a> to learn about their plight and get ideas for how you can help.	<b>14</b> Reflect on Mary and Joseph's difficult journey to Bethlehem. How can you <a href="#">put love in action</a> and help lighten someone's journey today?	<b>15</b> Movie night - Make popcorn and hot chocolate and watch a Christmas classic. <a href="#">See our list of suggested films</a>
<b>16</b> Light the third candle on the Advent wreath. Pray a decade of the <a href="#">Rosary</a> .	<b>17</b> Begin including the " <a href="#">O Antiphons</a> " as part of your table or bedtime prayers.	<b>18</b> Put up and bless the <a href="#">crèche</a> . Hide Baby Jesus until Christmas.	<b>19</b> As you joyfully await the coming of Christ, take action to proclaim God's kingdom of peace <a href="#">by advocating</a> on behalf of our brothers and sisters in poverty <a href="#">around the world</a> .	<b>20</b> Spend a few moments reflecting on the wonder of the incarnation, and <a href="#">how you are called to participate in Christ's mission</a> in the world.	<b>21</b> As we draw nearer to Christmas, take a moment to <a href="#">lift up in prayer</a> the struggles faced by neighbors in your community and around the world.	<b>22</b> Visit a live Nativity scene. Does it help you imagine Jesus's actual birth?
<b>23</b> Light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath. Read the Christmas story ( <a href="#">Luke 2:1-14</a> )	<b>24</b> Take a moment to reflect on Jesus' humble roots as the adopted son of a carpenter and Christ's special concern for those in poverty today. Visit <a href="#">povertyusa.org</a> .	<b>25</b> Celebrate the Birth of Christ by participating in Mass and spending time with family and friends.	 <div> <p><b>"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL"</b> Mt 1:23</p> <p>  United States Conference of Catholic Bishops           </p> </div>			

# 2012 FAMILY CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 13  
WWW.USCCB.ORG/ADVENT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>25</b> Celebrate the Birth of Christ by participating in Mass and spending time with family and friends.	<b>26</b> On this feast of the deacon St. Stephen, pray for a deacon you know. Perhaps send a note thanking him for his service.	<b>27</b> Feast of St. John the Evangelist. Read <a href="#">John 1:1-14</a>	<b>28</b> Feast of the Holy Innocents. <a href="#">Pray for greater respect for all human life</a> from conception to natural death.	<b>29</b> Learn about the Church's efforts to break the cycle of poverty in the U.S. through the <a href="#">Catholic Campaign for Human Development</a> . Make a year-end <a href="#">donation</a> to CCHD.]
<b>30</b> Holy Family Sunday. Participate in Mass as a family and enjoy a treat afterwards.	<b>31</b> What specific virtue is God calling you to practice in the New Year? Patience, kindness, generosity—something else?	<b>1</b> <a href="#">World Day of Peace</a> . Pray for peace in your home, community and the world.	<b>2</b> Read the section of the <a href="#">Catechism</a> about “The Mysteries of Jesus’ Infancy and Hidden Life”.	<b>3</b> All of creation rejoices at Christ’s coming. Reflect today on how you can live out <a href="#">your role as steward of God’s creation</a> , caring for and protecting it.	<b>4</b> Read the story of <a href="#">Elizabeth Ann Seton</a> a wife, mother, founder of a religious order, and American saint.	<b>5</b> Help youth in your family, parish or school share their Christmas joy and put love in action by participating in the <a href="#">Multi-Media Youth Contest</a> .
<b>6</b> Epiphany: Sing “We Three Kings.” Celebrate with a King Cake. Who finds Baby Jesus?	<b>7</b> During this <a href="#">National Migration Week</a> pray for those who are journeying far from home.	<b>8</b> Finish writing thank you notes for Christmas presents. Pray for each of the givers.	<b>9</b> Express your Christmas joy by taking hope-filled action on behalf of those who are poor and vulnerable. <a href="#">Contact your elected officials</a> about an issue you care about.	<b>10</b> Pray for someone from another country (like the Three Kings were), especially if they are facing challenges.	<b>11</b> As disciples of Christ living in the world, we are <a href="#">called to participate</a> in public life year round, in an ongoing way. How are you called to participate?	<b>12</b> Read the story of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan ( <a href="#">Mt 3:13-17</a> or <a href="#">Mk 1:9-11</a> ).
<b>13</b> The Christmas season ends. In thanks for the season, meditate on the Glorious Mysteries as you <a href="#">pray the rosary</a> .	 <div><p><b>"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS"</b> Lk 2:14</p><p>United States Conference of Catholic Bishops</p></div> 					