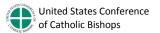
2012 FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2-24
WWW.USCCB.ORG/ADVENT

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

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL" Mt 1:23



2012 FAMILY CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 13

WWW.USCCB.ORG/ADVENT

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

13

The Christmas season ends. In thanks for the season, mediate on the Glorious Mysteries as you <u>pray the rosary.</u>



"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS" Lk 2:14



