



ADVENT CALENDAR 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>December 3</p> <p>Bless your Advent wreath. Light one of the violet candles marking the season's first week as you sing a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p>4</p> <p>In today's Gospel, the centurion says, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof." Make reading the daily readings a part of your Advent this year.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Parents, "by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children" (<i>Lumen Gentium</i>, no. 11). How do you foster faith in your home?</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Today is the feast of St. Nicholas, a 4th century bishop known for his abundant generosity to the poor. Consider purchasing a gift for a giving tree in your parish or office this year.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>"Goodness always tends to spread . . . If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good." (Pope Francis, <i>Evangeli</i> <i>Gaudium</i>, no. 9)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we remember, "God came down from heaven, and from a Hebrew virgin assumed and clothed himself with flesh; and the Son of God lived in a daughter of man." (St. Aristides of Athens, <i>Apology</i>, 2)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Today, we remember St. Juan Diego, to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in the 16th century in what is now Mexico. Pray to him today for the protection of migrants.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Churches around the nation held a special collection for retired religious today. Pray for these dedicated servants of Christ as you light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"Woe to me if I do not preach [the Gospel]!" (<i>1 Cor 9:16</i>). Reflect today on how you are called to be a missionary disciple.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe today that she may help us in "bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society."</p>	<p>13</p> <p>St. Lucy, who we celebrate today, is the patron saint of the blind. How do you care for the vulnerable in your community?</p>	<p>14</p> <p>St. John of the Cross, who we honor today, was known for his deep spirituality and compassion. Learn to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy today.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>"Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor . . . the desire to do good fades." (Pope Francis, <i>Evangeli</i> <i>Gaudium</i>, no. 2)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>During Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, participants travel house to house and ask in the name of heaven for a place to stay. Pray for migrants around the world today.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Today is Gaudete Sunday when we shift our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." Rejoice as you light the pink candle on your Advent wreath. You are more than half way to Christmas!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Take time today to bless the family crèche. Based on your family's tradition, you may choose to hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>"To evangelize, therefore, it is necessary to open ourselves once again to the horizon of God's Spirit, without being afraid of what he asks us or of where he leads us. Let us entrust ourselves to him!" (Pope Francis, May 22, 2013)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>"If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 Jn 1:10). Have you gone to confession this Advent?</p>	<p>21</p> <p>St. Peter Canisius was a renowned Jesuit preacher and Doctor of the Church. On his feast day, pray for increased vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>"Spreading the Gospel means that we are the first to proclaim and live the reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, unity and love which the Holy Spirit gives us." (Pope Francis, May 22, 2013)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pope Francis said of evangelization: "It is not the mission of only a few, but it is mine, yours and our mission." Carry the spirit of evangelization with you into the Christmas season and beyond.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus . . . and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Lk 1:31-33)</p>	<p>Copyright © 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quotes from Pope Francis, copyright © 2013, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Quotes from the <i>Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America</i>, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. <i>Lumen Gentium</i> quote taken from <i>Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents</i> edited by Austin Flannery, OP, copyright © 1975, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN. All rights reserved. Photo: CNS/Lisa Johnston, St Louis Review.</p>					