



LOVE BEARS ALL

# FAMILY ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Each year, amid the busyness of our Christmas preparations, the Advent season offers an opportunity to open our hearts and homes to the presence of God. How do we prepare our families to welcome Jesus more intentionally at Christmas?

Most importantly, we welcome Jesus by loving Him and each other as He loves us. The Christmas story is the love story between God and humanity, in which God pours Himself out in love by taking on a human nature—by becoming a little baby! Like Mary and Joseph, we prepare for Jesus by practicing this type of self-giving love in our homes. We respect and cherish each other; we serve each other even when it is difficult or inconvenient; and we strive to lead each other closer to God.

Setting aside time for family prayer strengthens family love and allows us to listen to God's voice as He invites us to a deeper relationship with Himself. If we do this, our Christmas celebrations will be filled with His light and peace!

Let us seek the Light of Christ during our Advent journey and let us bear this light to others.

Love bears all.



In order to help you journey through Advent and Christmas, we created a calendar with short, simple activities for the whole family to do together. There are moments of prayer, suggestions for family conversations and service, and opportunities for creativity and fun.

Family Rosary is here to support your family as you journey together in prayer during the Advent and Christmas seasons. May God continue to bless you and your family.



**Family Rosary**

HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 4

**Sunday, November 28**  
*First Sunday of Advent*

If you haven't already, create an Advent wreath with your family. It can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. Then, light the first purple candle and pray an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" together.

**Monday, November 29**

Ask each family member to choose a fruit of the Holy Spirit — such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, or gentleness — to practice more intentionally during Advent.

**Tuesday, November 30**  
*Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle*

Today is the Feast of St. Andrew, who was a fisherman before he followed Jesus. Read the Bible story of the call of St. Andrew, Matthew 4:18-22. Then, discuss together what it could have been like for St. Andrew to give up everything to follow Jesus.

**Wednesday, December 1**

At a meal with your family, discuss the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Ask everyone to share how they think Mary and Joseph must have felt during this exciting and difficult trip. (For reference, read Luke 2:1-7.)

**Thursday, December 2**

Purchase or make a gift that you can donate to a children's charity, or give your gift directly to someone in need.

**Friday, December 3**  
*Feast of Saint Francis Xavier*

Today is the feast of St. Francis Xavier, a missionary. Pray for people who do not know about Jesus today.

**Saturday, December 4**

Make a list of 5 blessings your family has received this week.

*Please note: We suggest preparing your family Advent wreath before the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, so that you are ready to light it when Advent begins. You can find instructions and tips for making your own Advent wreath at [FamilyRosary.org](http://FamilyRosary.org).*

*Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous,  
[love] is not pompous, it is not inflated.*

- 1 Corinthians 13:4

**Sunday, December 5**  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

Today, light two purple candles of your Advent wreath. After you light the candles, pray to St. Joseph for your loved ones who have died and for all souls in Purgatory.

**Monday, December 6**  
*Feast of Saint Nicholas*

Ask each member of your family to write individual "thank you notes" to each person in the family. Then, share the notes with each other during dinner or another family meal.

**Tuesday, December 7**

Say a "Hail Mary" for someone who needs God's help today.

**Wednesday, December 8**  
*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

Today is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Attend Mass today in honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception.

**Thursday, December 9**  
*Feast of Saint Juan Diego*

Draw a picture of Mary as she appeared to Saint Juan Diego. Hint: Look up a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe or download the coloring page from CatholicMom.com's Sunday Gospel Activities. You may also enjoy reading the exciting account of St. Juan Diego's encounter with Our Lady in 1531.

**Friday, December 10**

Although prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are associated with the season of Lent, we also engage in these practices throughout the year and especially during the season of Advent. As a family, choose a favorite food to give up for the remainder of Advent and donate the money to a charity.

**Saturday, December 11**

It's always a good idea to go to Confession at least once during Advent. Find out when Confession is offered at your parish and go as a family. *With children too young to receive the sacrament, take a moment to talk about the importance of forgiving and asking for forgiveness.*

*It is not rude, it does not seek its own interests,  
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury.*

- 1 Corinthians 13:5

**Sunday, December 12**  
*Third Sunday of Advent*

After you light two purple candles and one rose candle on your Advent wreath, pray a decade of the Rosary with your family, meditating on the mystery of the Annunciation. Visit [FamilyRosary.org](http://FamilyRosary.org) to learn how to pray a decade of the Rosary.

**Monday, December 13**  
*Feast of Saint Lucy*

Take a walk or drive around your neighborhood with your family to enjoy the Christmas lights and decorations.

**Tuesday, December 14**

Say a prayer asking Mary to help you prepare to welcome Jesus, her Son, into your heart.

**Wednesday, December 15**

Offer to help someone in your family with a chore today.

**Thursday, December 16**

Do something kind for a neighbor or friend today.

**Friday, December 17**

Say a "Hail Mary" and ask our Blessed Mother to guide the Church today.

**Saturday, December 18**

Make a card for your pastor wishing him a merry Christmas and thanking him for what he does for your parish.

*It does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.*

- 1 Corinthians 13:6

**Sunday, December 19**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

After you light all four candles of your Advent wreath, read the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) with your family.

**Monday, December 20**

At a meal with your family, share examples of how you can say “yes” to God together more often.

**Tuesday, December 21**

Resolve to start each day by offering everything you do, say, and experience to God. You can even do this as a whole family!

**Wednesday, December 22**

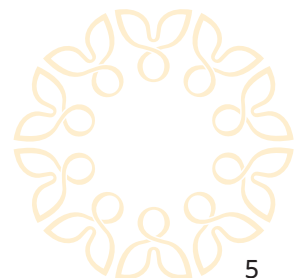
Christmas is almost here! Together, make sure your rooms are neat and clean. Most of all, we want our hearts to be clean and ready to welcome Jesus as Mary did.

**Thursday, December 23**

Sing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” as a family.

*It bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.*

- 1 Corinthians 13:7



**Friday, December 24**  
*Vigil of Christmas*

Light a candle (in the evening if possible) and ask one member of the family to read the Bible story of Jesus’ birth, Luke 2:1-20, out loud, while everyone listens.

**Saturday, December 25**  
*Christmas Day*

Merry Christmas! Take five quiet minutes to pray to Jesus, thanking Him for coming to redeem us.

**Sunday, December 26**  
*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*

Spend a half hour relaxing with your family today, but make sure to leave cell phones, computers, and tablets in another room!

**Monday, December 27**  
*Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist*

Write down five ways we can know that God loves us.

**Tuesday, December 28**  
*Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

Purchase diapers, formula, or clothing to donate to a crisis pregnancy center.

**Wednesday, December 29**  
*Feast of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr*

Write a poem or draw a picture telling others why Christmas is important to you.

**Thursday, December 30**  
*Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas*

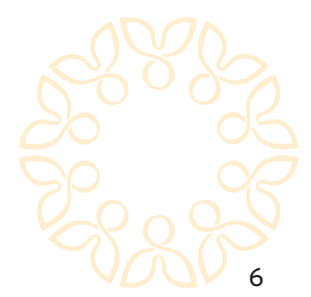
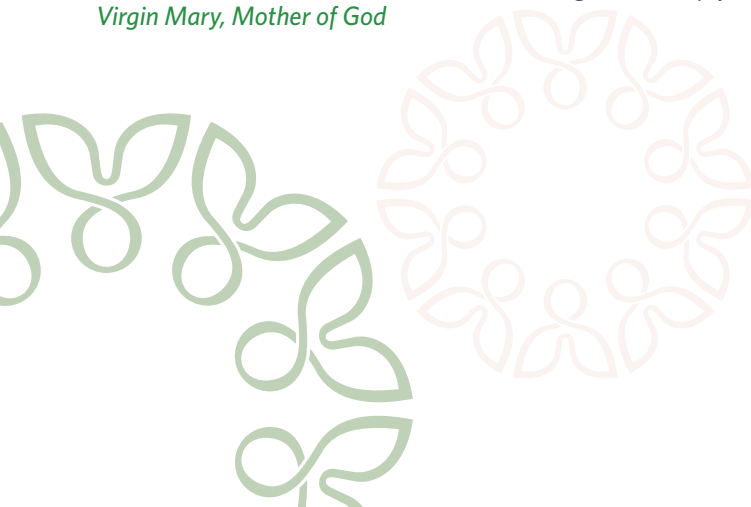
It is still the Christmas Octave! Sing Christmas carols with your family today.

**Friday, December 31**  
*Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas*

Write down 10 blessings from God that you received during the past year.

**Saturday, January 1**  
*Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God*

Say a prayer to Mary with your family, thanking her for saying “yes” to being the Mother of God and asking her to help you to love her Son.



**Sunday, January 2**  
*Epiphany*

Like the Magi, give Jesus a gift today! The best gift we can give Him is our love, so spend 5 minutes talking to Jesus and telling Him that you love Him.

**Monday, January 3**  
*Holy Name of Jesus*

Read Matthew 1:18-25. Did you know that Jesus' name means "God saves"? Do your own names have special meanings, or are you named after someone special? Discuss the origins of your names together.

**Tuesday, January 4**  
*Feast of Saint Elizabeth*  
*Ann Seton*

Pray for teachers, catechists, and parents today.

**Wednesday, January 5**

Visit or call someone who might be alone or lonely.

**Thursday, January 6**  
*Feast of Saint André Bessette*

Hold the door open for someone today.

**Friday, January 7**

Volunteer to help prepare a meal or clean a room with your family today.

**Saturday, January 8**

Make a point to smile at everyone you meet today.

**Sunday, January 9**  
*The Baptism of the Lord*

Discuss with your family how you can continue to say "yes" to God like Mary even when the Christmas season is over.



*Love bears all.*