



Advent/ Christmas

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| 29 1st Advent Set up and bless family Advent wreath (reverse side of this page) | 30 Chart sundown to observe darkness giving way to lighter days | 1 Make Christmas cards for frontline helpers who served you this year | 2 Give something on your "wish list" also to Toys for Tots in your area | 3 Create a snow painting in view of elderly friends confined inside | 4 Go to a tree lighting event and enjoy hot cocoa | 5 Place shoes in hall overnight for treat from St. Nicholas—read about him |
| 6 2nd Advent Purchase an item for the "Giving Tree" at your church | 7 Make ornaments for teachers, nurses, babysitters, others... | 8 Make a pinecone centerpiece, wreath or bird-feeder | 9 Donate needed items for a local food pantry—put in some holiday extras! | 10 Invite a senior friend to lead in making an "old fashioned" Christmas craft | 11 Place a donation in the Salvation Army bell ringer's bin | 12 Display an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—tell your faith story to someone |
| 13 3rd Advent Decorate your home with messages of Joy, Peace, Love | 14 Learn about St. Lucy and enjoy a candle display somewhere today | 15 Learn about Christmas customs around the world—try a new one! | 16 Decorate a gingerbread (or graham cracker) house—visit a virtual display | 17 Film a modern story of the true meaning of Christmas and share it with friends | 18 Wear Santa hats and do a trash pick up in your neighborhood | 19 Make Christmas cookies and share with a neighbor |
| 20 4th Advent Visit a live Nativity Scene or enact one as a family | 21 Write letters to Santa, but with your wishes for your family and the world | 22 Write a new Christmas carol, or re-write the words to a favorite | 23 Perform a choral recitation of "Twas The Night Before Christmas" | 24 Read the Christmas story from the family Bible—share your favorite character | 25 Christmas Day Participate in a Church Service | 26 Read aloud a new Christmas book—and a few family favorites as well |
| 27 Holy Family Have a caroling fest—and name how each person is a gift in your family | 28 Print photos from Christmas Day, then cut them into jigsaw puzzles to reconstruct them | 29 Anonymously pay for the treat of someone behind you at coffee shop | 30 Video interview family members, asking what they learned from 2020 | 31 Bless your 2021 family calendar and write a new family mission statement | 1 Form a "bell choir" with any household objects and "ring in the New Year" | 2 Cut star shaped sandwiches and talk about "following the star" to find Jesus |
| 3 Epiphany Process singing "We Three Kings" and bless your home doorposts 20+B+C+M+21 | 4 Got snow? Make a snow sculpture (or use playdoh!) | 5 Take some personal care gifts to a shelter for women and children | 6 Write a letter to a family friend or some troops stationed overseas | 7 Cut paper snowflakes and talk about how we are each also unique | 8 Start a new family service project—on the First Friday of each month during 2021 | 9 Pray and decide—to be "light for the world" in some way this coming year |



BLESSING THE ADVENT WREATH

To prepare, choose one person to lead the service and another to read aloud from Scripture. Open the Bible to Philippians 4:4-7. (Other good Advent passages are Isaiah 11:1-4, Isaiah 61:1-2, Mark 1:1-8 and James 5:7-10)

Place the Advent wreath on a table and have your family gather around it. Lower the lights to create an appropriate atmosphere for the blessing. Light a single purple candle for the first week of Advent.

Leader: This week we begin the season of Advent, when the days grow short and darkness closes in. We are preparing to celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

Scripture Reading

(Pause for a few moments, then pray the Sign of the Cross.)

Leader: Lord God, bless this wreath as a prayerful reminder of the hope and joy that Jesus brings to the world. (Sprinkle the wreath with holy water, if available.) Bless us as well, in our unity with all who wait for the fullness of the coming of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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| <p>WEEK ONE: (Daily, lighting one purple candle)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All:</i> One candle, burning bright, Chasing away the darkness from light. One candle, glowing light, The blessing of God, giving new sight.</p> <p><i>Reader:</i> Let us pray. Dear God, we pray for the hope that is in Christ to come into our lives in a new way. May we become hope that is alive in our world. Amen.</p> | <p>WEEK TWO: (Daily, lighting two purple candles)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All:</i> Two candles, burning bright, Chasing away the darkness from light. Two candles, glowing light, The blessing of God, giving new sight.</p> <p><i>Reader:</i> Let us pray. Dear God, we pray that our hearts will be ready for your coming through your Son, Jesus the Christ. Help us to see how you call us to prepare. Amen.</p> |
| <p>WEEK THREE: (Daily, lighting two purple and one pink candles)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All:</i> Three candles, burning bright, Chasing away the darkness from light. Three candles, glowing bright, The blessing of God, giving new sight.</p> <p><i>Reader:</i> Let us pray. Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it. May we celebrate in the joy found in You. Amen.</p> | <p>WEEK FOUR: (Daily, lighting all four candles)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All:</i> Four candles, burning bright, Chasing away the darkness with light. Four candles, glowing bright, The blessing of God, giving new sight.</p> <p><i>Reader:</i> Let us pray. Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once again, and may we relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.</p> |