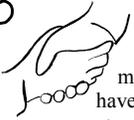




Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 27  Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle each night this week.	28 Read together about Elizabeth and Zechariah's special blessing in <i>Luke 1:5-25</i> . 	29  Set up your Nativity scene, but leave out the Holy Family.	30 Make cookies to bring to a nearby nursing home or homeless shelter. 	1 December Cut and paste pictures from Christmas cards you receive into ornaments for your tree. 	2 Attend Confession as a family and go out to dinner afterward to celebrate forgiveness! 	3 Ask a family member you have hurt in the past year for forgiveness. Offer it to one who has hurt you.
4 Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." 	5 Read about the angel's remarkable visit to Mary in <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> . Talk about ways we can also say, "yes," to God. 	6 Send Christmas cards to your pastor, priests, and religious or ordained ministers who are important to your family. 	7 Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling. 	8 In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight. 	9 Together, write your Christmas cards. Let older kids address the envelopes and younger ones seal them. 	10 Clean out your closets of unwanted clothes or toys in good condition. Donate them to a shelter or other charity.
11 Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today. 	12 Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it. 	13 Set the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the rest of the scene.	14 Write letters to Baby Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming. 	15 Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day. 	16 Family Movie Night: Make some popcorn and watch a Christmas movie together.	17 Put up and decorate your family Christmas tree. 
18 Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Read today's Gospel reading, <i>Matthew 1:18-24</i> . 	19 Move Mary and Joseph closer to the Nativity scene. Try to imagine what it was like to travel to Bethlehem by donkey.	20 Decorate a "Jesus Candle" with symbols of Jesus. Save it to light during Christmas dinner. 	21 Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready.	22 Take a drive or walk around your home to look at the Christmas decorations or displays. 	23 Send a thank-you note to the priests or other parish ministers who enriched your seasonal celebration. 	24 Give each family member a chance to say "thank you" for a blessing God has given this year.
25 Put the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in <i>Luke 2:1-20</i> . 	<p>... And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.</p> <p>Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:4-19)</p> 					