



ADVENT CALENDAR 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>November 29</p> <p>The First Sunday of Advent Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Make a resolution at the start of this liturgical year that will bring you closer to Christ.</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>Today is Giving Tuesday! Many of our parishes have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consider making a recurring gift to your parish.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Use this Advent season to ready your heart for Jesus. In what ways can you improve your relationship with him?</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest In honor of St. Francis Xavier, one of the first Jesuits, try the practice of the Daily Examen.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>"Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of <i>the worth of every human person</i>, always and everywhere." (Pope Francis, <i>Fratelli Tutti</i>, no. 106)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation of the birth of Christ. It can be easy to lose sight of this, focusing more on gift giving and receiving. Set aside time to pray with your family, even virtually, to refocus on the greatest gift.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>The Second Sunday of Advent Today, churches hold a special collection for retired religious. Pray for these dedicated servants of Christ as you light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Today is the Memorial of St. Ambrose, one of the Doctors of the Church. He baptized St. Augustine and is the patron saint of catechumens. Today, pray for those seeking to join the Church.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray the Hail Mary before meals. As Mary is also the patroness of the U.S., take time to pray for our country today.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>This year has been challenging for many. Bring joy to someone today. Text or call a friend, help a stranger in need, or share today's Gospel with your loved ones.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Walking with Moms in Need encourages us to "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need and to learn how we can help. Take the pledge today!</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"In some areas of our cities, there is still a lively sense of neighborhood. . . . In places where these community values are maintained, people experience a closeness marked by gratitude, solidarity and reciprocity." (Pope Francis, <i>Fratelli Tutti</i>, no. 152) Seek out volunteer opportunities in your neighborhood this week.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>On her feast day, pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, that she may "help us never to see others as burdens," especially migrants to our country and communities.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>The Third Sunday of Advent 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.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church There are 10 days left in Advent. In honor of a saint known for his deep spirituality and compassion, reflect honestly on your own spiritual journey so far this season.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>"As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others." (Pope Francis, <i>Fratelli Tutti</i>, no. 89) How can you embrace others today?</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Pray for migrants seeking shelter around the world.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Today marks the beginning of the "O Antiphons". This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>In today's Gospel we are reminded of St. Joseph's courage. Reflect on how God is calling you to demonstrate courage in serving him.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>What's your favorite Christmas movie? Gather your friends or family (in-person or virtually) and watch a Christmas classic.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>The Fourth Sunday of Advent "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" (Lk 1:38) Mary had complete trust in God, saying "yes" to his will. How would you describe your trust in God?</p>	<p>21</p> <p>St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas crèche, or manger, for Christmas Eve of 1223. Gather your loved ones, and bless your family's crèche.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph themselves were refugees in Egypt. . . the Holy Family has become a figure with whom Christian migrants and refugees throughout the ages can identify, giving them hope and courage in hard times." (USCCB, <i>Strangers No Longer</i>, no. 26) How can you welcome the stranger today?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this blessing with your family and friends.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free." (Lk 1:68)</p>		