



Advent Calendar 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 30 Set up an Advent wreath in your home. Light one of the violet candles marking the season's first week as you sing a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	December 1 Make Christmas gift lists that include "fair trade" items to support workers in developing countries and low-income communities in the United States. For ideas, visit www.crsfairtrade.org .	2 Church teaching on racism is clear: it is a sin. Yet as the headlines attest, it persists. Have an honest family discussion about racism and discuss ways to fight it in your community.	3 On this feast of the great evangelizer of Asia, St. Francis Xavier, read Matthew 28:16-20 and reflect on Jesus' instruction to the disciples to "make disciples of all nations."	4 St. John Damascene, priest and Doctor, defended the Church's understanding of the veneration of images. Mark his feast day by sharing and discussing your favorite religious images.	5 On this first Friday of Advent, start a Friday family tradition of praying a decade of the rosary before bedtime. Brush up on rosary prayers here: www.usccb.org/rosary .	6 Find and share an account of the life of St. Nicholas, the fourth century bishop who was the original "Santa Claus." Remember him today in prayer and by exchanging small gifts with your family.
7 Light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath, and on this day when many parishes hold a collection for retired religious , pray for all our retired religious brothers, sisters, and priests.	8 On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception , attend Mass and recite the Hail Mary or another favorite Marian prayer before your evening meal.	9 St. Juan Diego welcomed Our Lady of Guadalupe and did her bidding. Remember him today by praying for immigrants and newcomers in your parish or community.	10 Pray today for the Church in Africa , which has almost tripled in size in the past 30 years despite challenges of debt, epidemics, severe poverty, and political unrest.	11 Pope Francis has called for a " Year of Consecrated Life " that began last month. Talk about what it means to consecrate one's life to God and pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.	12 Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Place roses near a home or parish statue of Mary and pray to her as Patroness of the Americas for the protection of religious liberty.	13 Today is the feast of St. Lucy, whose name means "light." Discuss ways your family can bring the light of Christ to others as agents of the New Evangelization in your community.
14 It's Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday! Light the third (rose-colored) candle on your Advent wreath and read the Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-55), the Virgin Mary's great song of joy and praise.	15 Today, many Latin Americans begin Las Posadas — reenactments of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem. Pray for all of the children who have migrated alone to the U.S. this year.	16 Have a family discussion about poverty in America. Pray for the poor in your community and learn how you can make a difference at www.povertyusa.org .	17 Put up and bless the family crèche . If you don't have one, search the web for ideas to make one. Remember to hide the baby Jesus figure until Christmas!	18 War and religious persecution continue to plague our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Fast and pray today for lasting peace in the region.	19 Make choosing and setting up a Christmas tree a family ritual. Whether you choose a fresh or forever tree, in true Advent spirit, don't decorate and light it until Christmas Eve!	20 Have you been to Confession during this Advent? Take time to do so today and enjoy Christmas with a clean heart and a peaceful soul, courtesy of God's boundless mercy.
21 Light the final candle on your Advent wreath and take time amid the busyness of this season to rest and enjoy the blessings of home and the love of family.	22 Learn about the horrific crime of human trafficking that is on the rise even in the developed world. Pray for trafficking victims and an end to this crime against human dignity.	23 Read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-14) and reflect on the gift of life. Pray that all may embrace a culture of life.	24 Christmas Eve is finally here! Light your Christmas tree as a symbol of Christ, Light of the World. Sing "Silent Night" and reflect on the simplicity and humility of Jesus' birth.	25 "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." Lk 2:11		