

2021 Advent Calendar

Day	Date	Activity
Sunday	November 28	First Sunday of Advent
Monday	November 29	Color/make an Advent wreath
Tuesday	November 30	Color/make your own Advent calendar
Wednesday	December 1	Ask a family member about an Advent custom/tradition
Thursday	December 2	Ask how you can help around the house; do some extra chores
Friday	December 3	Advent Crossword Puzzle
Saturday	December 4	Sing an Advent hymn with your family
Sunday	December 5	Second Sunday of Advent – pray a decade of the Rosary
Monday	December 6	Feast of St. Nicholas – Read about him
Tuesday	December 7	Say an <i>Our Father</i> for your Priest
Wednesday	December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Go to Mass
Thursday	December 9	Say a <i>Hail Mary</i> for a family member
Friday	December 10	Go to Confession
Saturday	December 11	Practice saying the Apostles' Creed
Sunday	December 12	Gaudete Sunday
Monday	December 13	Feast of St. Lucy – Read about her
Tuesday	December 14	Read about Ember Days
Wednesday	December 15	Read the meditations for the <i>Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity</i>
Thursday	December 16	Color a nativity page/put out your family's crèche
Friday	December 17	O Wisdom – Read and color today's O Antiphon
Saturday	December 18	O Lord of Israel – Read and color today's O Antiphon
Sunday	December 19	O Root of Jesse – Read and color today's O Antiphon
Monday	December 20	O Key of David – Read and color today's O Antiphon
Tuesday	December 21	O Radiant Dawn – Read and color today's O Antiphon
Wednesday	December 22	O King of Nations – Read and color today's O Antiphon
Thursday	December 23	O Emmanuel – Read and color today's O Antiphon
Friday	December 24	Read the Christmas story from Luke 2: 1-14
Saturday	December 25	Christmas Day! Go to Mass (if you did not attend a Vigil Mass)

2021 Advent Calendar

November 28

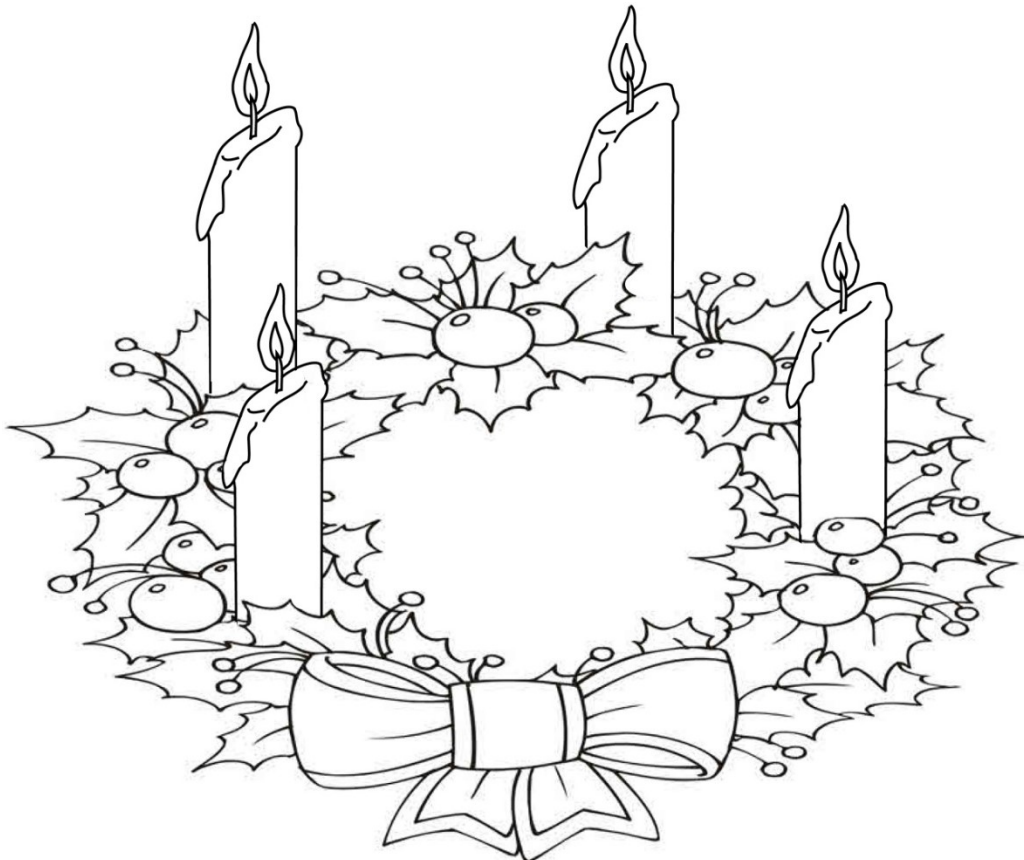
Today is the first Sunday of Advent. What color vestment was the priest wearing today?

Was there anything else different in the Church?

Did the Priest (or Deacon) tell you about Advent? If so, what did he say?

November 29

Color an Advent wreath below or make one with your family. An advent wreath is a great way to count down the weeks until Christmas. Be sure to use three violet candles and one rose.



2021 Advent Calendar

November 30

The Lord is coming! Advent is a season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming is remembered. It is also a season when the mind and heart await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Color or make your own Advent calendar. Create a fun way to count down the days in Advent. Remember, the season of Advent begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th. This year Advent began on November 29th.

You can use the blank calendar below or come up with our own special way of counting down the days. Look up some of the Saints for this season and mark their feast days. Do not forget to mark the different Sundays in Advent.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

2021 Advent Calendar

December 1

What Advent customs or traditions do you have in your family? Write about one or draw a picture. You can also read about more advent customs and traditions on the attached sheet at the end of this calendar.

[illegible]

December 2

What is the purpose of Advent? “Advent has a twofold character: as *a time to prepare for the solemnity of Christmas when the Son of God’s first coming to us is remembered*; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, the season of Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.” (GNLY, 39)

How do you prepare when a friend comes over to visit? You clean your house; you get yourself ready! You should do the same for the Lord. Advent is a great time to get your house ready for the season of Christmas. Ask how you can help around the house; do some extra chores. It is always great when we help our parents. The Fourth Commandment says we should honor our Father and our Mother. How can you help them today?

2021 Advent Calendar

December 2 (continued)

Likewise, Catholics are called to do works of mercy. Advent is a particularly great time to revisit the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and try even harder to help those who are most in need. Look at the lists of Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy below and talk with your family about ways you can help others by doing various works of mercy.

the **CORPORAL** *works of mercy*

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Clothe the naked

Visit the imprisoned

Shelter the homeless

Visit the sick

Bury the dead

the **SPIRITUAL** *works of mercy*

Admonish the sinner

Instruct the ignorant

Counsel the doubtful

Comfort the sorrowful

Bear wrongs patiently

Forgive all injuries

Pray for the living and the dead

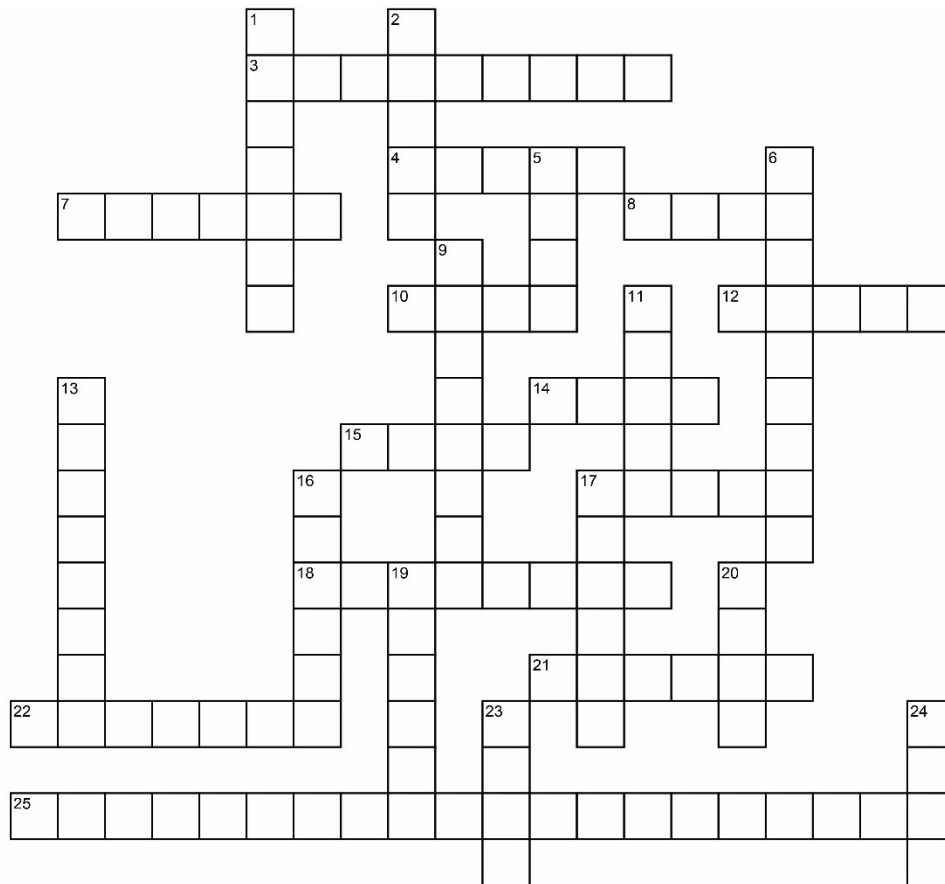
What did you do that helped your family? _____

How did it make you feel to help them? _____

What other things could you do to help someone in need? _____

2021 Advent Calendar

December 3



ACROSS

- 3 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is a song about the O ____.
- 4 These sharp leaves remind us of the Crown of Thorns.
- 7 The liturgical color for Advent (other than rose).
- 8 The three theological virtues are: faith, ____, and love.
- 10 The mother of Jesus.
- 12 The rose candle is lit on the ____ Sunday of Advent.
- 14 The liturgical color for the third Sunday of Advent.
- 15 "And the ____ became flesh."
- 17 A name for Jesus: the Prince of ____.
- 18 Santa Clause is the modern-day Saint ____.
- 21 Why Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
- 22 Advent is a time to ____ for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
- 25 The feast celebrating that Mary was conceived without sin.

DOWN

- 1 In Latin, this word means rejoice.
- 2 Jesus is the ____ of the world.
- 5 Our ____ of Guadalupe is the feast on December 12th.
- 6 The birthplace of Jesus.
- 9 Where the Holy Family lived.
- 11 The ____ Tree uses ornaments to tell the story of Salvation history.
- 13 The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is on ____ 8th.
- 16 Each week, on Sunday, a new ____ is lit on our Advent wreath.
- 17 A conversation with God.
- 19 ____ means "anointed one."
- 20 How many Sundays are there in Advent?
- 23 Saint ____ has her feast day on December 13th.
- 24 Our Lord, Jesus Christ, ____ of the Universe is the last Sunday of the Novus Ordo liturgical year.

2021 Advent Calendar

December 4

What is the purpose of Advent (again)? “Advent has a twofold character: as a time to prepare for the solemnity of Christmas when the Son of God’s first coming to us is remembered; as *a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time*. For these two reasons, the season of Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.” (GNLY, 39)

What better way to express “devout and joyful expectation” than with song? Find an Advent hymn or look up one of the suggestions below and sing it with your family.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Comfort, Comfort, O My People
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
People Look East
O Come Divine Messiah
On Jordan’s Bank

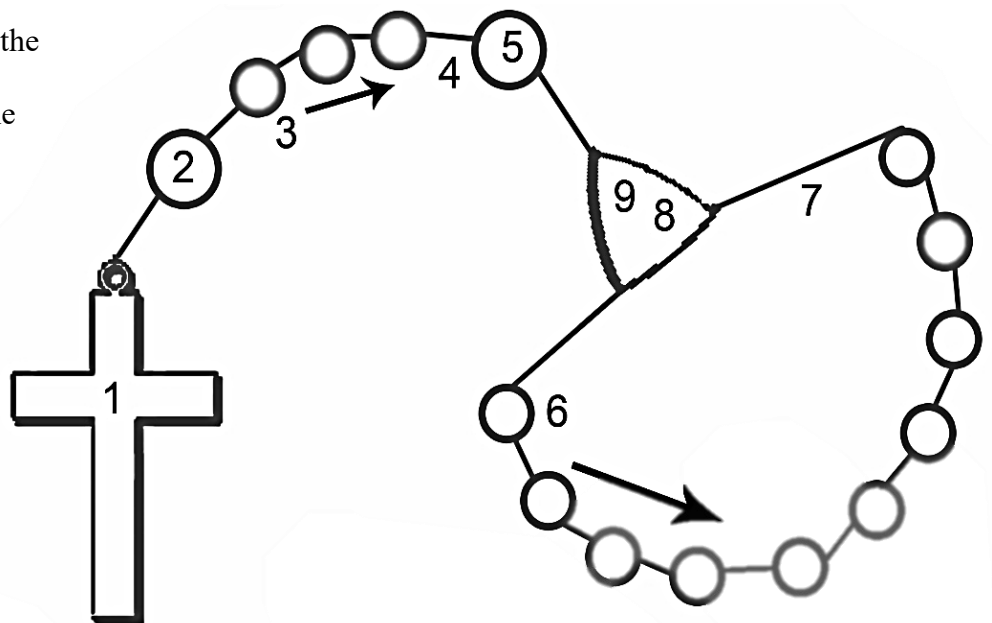
Rorate Caeli
The Advent of Our King
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
Veni, Redemptor Gentium
Veni, Veni Emanuel (O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

December 5

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. How quickly time flies! Are you working hard to prepare for the coming of Christ?

Take a moment to stop and pray for all the wonders of God’s creation and His never-ending love for you. Try saying a single decade Rosary with your family. You can use the image below to mark off the prayers as you say them.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
2. Say the Our Father.
3. Say three Hail Marys.
4. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
5. Announce the Mystery; then say the Our Father.
6. Say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
8. Say the Hail Holy Queen.
9. Make the Sign of the Cross.



2021 Advent Calendar

December 6

Today is the Feast of Saint Nicholas. Color the picture of Saint Nicholas and read about this great Bishop below.

Saint Nicholas lost his wealthy parents to the plague when he was young, and he donated much of his inheritance to charity. As a generous young orphan, St. Nicholas learned of three young sisters who could not become married because their family was too poor. He tossed a bag of gold coins through the window of their home on three occasions so that each sister had the money they needed to be married.

The charity and generosity of Saint Nicholas became well known miracles such as providing bread during times of famine, calming the waves during a storm for sailors and saving three boys from death. St. Nicholas devoted his life to helping the poor and was chosen as Bishop of Myra.

Saint Nicholas is best known as the patron saint of children because of his devotion to helping the poor and his history of miracles. He also became well known as Father Christmas and Santa Clause.

A fun tradition is to put your shoes out the night before (December 5th) and see what presents Saint Nicholas brought (usually chocolate coins).

Did you put out your shoes for Saint Nicholas?

YES / NO

If so, what did he bring you?



2021 Advent Calendar

December 7

Say the *Our Father* for your Priest. Remember to pray for his health, safety, and intentions. BONUS: try praying in Latin. The English and Latin have been placed side-by-side to make it easier to follow along.

ENGLISH

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

LATIN

Pater noster,
qui es in caelis,
sanctificetur nomen tuum.
Adveniat regnum tuum.
Fiat voluntas tua,
sicut in caelo et in terra.
Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,
et dimitte nobis debita nostra
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem,
sed libera nos a malo.
Amen.

December 8

December 8th is celebrated as a Holy Day of Obligation in the Church; specifically, it is the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*. Be sure to check your Church bulletin for Mass times so you do not miss this Holy Day of Obligation.

The Immaculate Conception celebrates that **Mary** was conceived without sin. **Mary** was born free of original sin to Saint Anne, her mother and Saint Joachim, her father. Mary was born without sin so she could be the most perfect mom (vessel) to carry Jesus Christ.

Write down the name of your Church: _____

What are the Mass times for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception? _____

Did your family do anything special to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother? _____

2021 Advent Calendar

December 9

Say a *Hail Mary* for a family member. BONUS: try praying in Latin. The English and Latin have been placed side-by-side to make it easier to follow along.

ENGLISH

Hail Mary,
full of Grace!
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

LATIN

Ave Maria,
gratia plena!
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.
Sancta Maria,
Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

December 10

Advent is a time of preparation. We are preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus! One amazing way to prepare ourselves is going to the Sacrament of Penance (Confession). If it has been a while, do not worry! Your Priest is happy to help you make a good Confession. Just ask! You can also use the brief guide below.

HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

1. Examine your conscience. Use the Children's Examination of Conscience on the next page to help you figure out which sins you have committed. ****Do NOT write down your sins. You do not want other people finding your list.****
2. You always have the option to go to Confession anonymously, that is, behind a screen. You can also choose to go face to face if you want.
3. After the Priest greets you in the name of Christ, make the sign of the cross say, "Bless me Father for I have sinned. It has been (state how long) since my last confession. I have the following sins to confess."
4. Tell your sins by stating the **kind** and **number**. That is, state them simply and honestly without telling stories or talking about other people's sins.
5. Listen to the advice the Priest gives you and accept the penance from him. ****REMEMBER your Penance for later!****
6. The Priest will then ask for your Act of Contrition. Say the following:

2021 Advent Calendar

December 10 (continued)

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

7. The Priest will then say the Words of Absolution, followed by the Sign of the Cross. You should respond with “AMEN” at the end of:

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, **and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

8. Finally, the Priest will dismiss you with words of praise. Once he is finished, say, “Thank you, Father” and leave quietly.
9. Spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament praying. Thank God for His infinite mercy and do not forget to do your Penance!

CHILDREN’S EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

1. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD; YOU SHALL NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.
 - Do I speak (pray) to God every day? When I wake up, before meals, before going to sleep?
 - Do I remember to thank God for the good things I have done or received?
 - Do I bring all the tough things in my life to God in prayer and ask for His help?
 - Do I put my trust in God alone, or do I trust in good luck charms, palm reading, and superstitions?
2. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN.
 - Have I used the words “God” or “Jesus” in anger or with lack of respect?
 - Have I used bad words or language?
 - Have I wished evil (bad things) on another?
3. REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY THE LORD’S DAY.
 - Do I go to Mass on Sunday unless I had a good reason? (lack of transportation, sickness)
 - Do I make Sunday a day of rest and joy for my family?
 - Do I pay attention to Mass? Do I tease others or distract them by talking or playing?
 - Do I arrive late at Mass or leave early? (i.e. did you not get ready on time?)
4. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.
 - Do I respect and obey my parents?
 - Have I treated them badly by word or action?
 - Am I willing to help around the house, or do my parents have to constantly nag me?
 - Do I try to get along with my brothers and sisters? Am I a tattletale or bully?
 - Do I try to give good example with my words and actions, especially to my younger siblings?
 - Do I respect others in authority: babysitters, older people, teachers, Priests, nuns, etc.?

2021 Advent Calendar

December 10 (continued)

5. YOU SHALL NOT KILL.
 - Do I hit others or hurt their bodies?
 - Do I say mean things or make fun of others to hurt their feelings?
 - Am I willing to play with everyone? Have I stopped speaking to anyone without good reason (they hurt me, they are a bad influence, etc.)?
 - Am I mean to others?
 - Do I encourage others to do bad things?
 - Do I take care of my health such as eating the right food and taking care of the body God gave me?
6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
 - Do I treat my body and other people's bodies with respect, dignity, and purity?
 - Do I look at television shows, movies, or pictures that are bad and hurt my soul and mind?
 - Am I modest in the clothes I wear and in my speech?
 - Do I remember that I am a daughter/son of God and act with dignity towards my person?
7. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.
 - Have I taken things that were not mine from a store or another person?
 - Have I broken or misused another person's property on purpose?
 - Do I return things that I borrow? Do I return them on time and in good condition?
8. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR. (YOU SHALL NOT LIE).
 - Do I tell the truth?
 - Do I say things about other people that are not true?
 - Did I cheat in class or in a game?
 - Do I tell lies to make myself look good?
 - Do I tell lies to protect myself from being punished for something bad I did?
 - Do I tell lies to make another person look bad or get them in trouble?
 - Am I a tattletale? Do I gossip?
9. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.
 - Do I get mad when my friends hang out with other people?
 - Am I jealous of my siblings?
 - Do I get mad or jealous when my parents give attention to my siblings?
 - Do I want my parent's attention for myself constantly?
10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.
 - Am I thankful to God and my parents for what they have given me?
 - Do I share the things I have with my family, friends, and poor people?
 - Am I willing to share my things and my time with others?
 - Am I jealous or envious of the things others have?
 - Am I jealous or envious of the abilities others have?

2021 Advent Calendar

December 11

Practice saying *The Apostles' Creed*. BONUS: try praying in Latin. The English and Latin have been placed side-by-side to make it easier to follow along.

ENGLISH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified,
died
and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

LATIN

Credo in Deum,
Patrem omnipotentem,
Creatorem caeli et terrae,
et in Iesum Christum,
Filius eius unicum,
Dominum nostrum,
qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto,
natus ex Maria Virgine,
passus sub Pontio Pilato,
crucifixus,
mortuus,
et sepultus,
descendit ad infernos,
tertia die resurrexit a mortuis,
ascendit ad caelos,
sedet ad dexteram Dei,
Patris omnipotentis;
inde venturus est iudicare vivos
et mortuos.
Credo in Spiritum Sanctum,
sanctam Ecclesiam catholicam,
sanctorum communionem,
remissionem peccatorum,
carnis resurrectionem,
vitam aeternam.
Amen.

2021 Advent Calendar

December 12

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday. It means that we are (roughly) halfway through Advent. Take a look at the Advent Infographic attached to the end of this calendar and read the short paragraph about Gaudete Sunday.

What does *Gaudete* mean? _____

Where does *Gaudete* come from? _____

What language is *Gaudete* in? _____

What color vestment was the priest wearing today? _____


What did your priest talk about in his homily? _____

What are some things that make you joyful? _____

Imagine what it would feel like to wait for the greatest gift ever: the Lord!

Would you feel excited?
Scared? Nervous? Happy?

Draw a picture of you waiting joyfully and expectantly:



2021 Advent Calendar

December 13

Today is the Feast of Saint Lucy. Color the picture of Saint Lucy and read about this great Saint below.

Not much is known about this beloved saint. Lucy was born in the late 3rd century (late 200s). Tradition says that Lucy was a young woman who lived in Syracuse, Sicily. Her mother tried to arrange her marriage to a wealthy, pagan man. However, young Lucy wanted to give her life in service of Christ. Soon after, Lucy's mother became very ill. Lucy saw this as a way to convince her mother to return to Christ and let Lucy live a life for God.

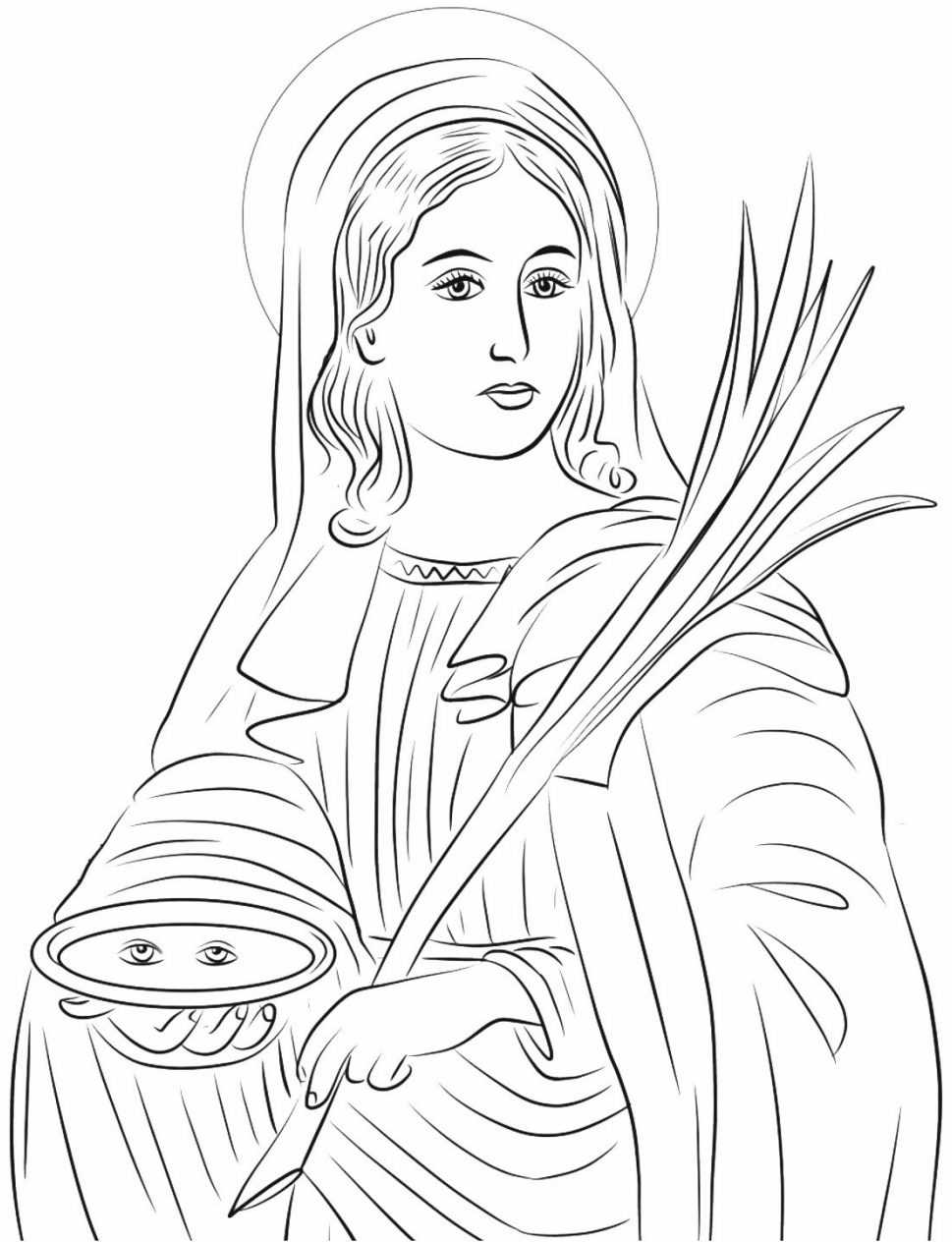
Lucy persuaded her mother to go to the tomb of Saint Agatha and pray. In a dream, Saint Agatha came to Lucy and told her that her mother's illness would be cured, and that Lucy should convince her mother to give the money she was going to use for Lucy's marriage to the poor.

Lucy and her mother were grateful to God, and Lucy vowed to remain a virgin like Saint Agatha. However, the rejected groom was angered! In a rage, he went to the Roman authorities and asked that Lucy be defiled and humiliated.

The governor attempted to force her defilement at a brothel. However, the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after tying her to a team of oxen. The guards then tied wood around Saint Lucy, but it would not burn. Finally, her throat was slit, and she was martyred (killed) in 304 AD.

Saint Lucy is the patron of eye problems and is often depicted holding eyes, tied with a rope, or wearing a crown of candles.

In Sweden, Saint Lucia's Day is celebrated by the eldest daughter of the family dressing in a white robe and wearing as a crown an evergreen wreath studded with candles.



2021 Advent Calendar

December 14

Later this week are the ember days of winter. Ember days happen four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

When, specifically, are the winter Ember Days?

The Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday *after* the Feast of Saint Lucy (December 13th). So, for this year, they are:

- Wednesday, December 15, 2021
- Friday, December 17, 2021
- Saturday, December 18, 2021

What should you do for Ember Days?

Ember days are days of penance; they are days of fasting and partial abstinence. These are three days set aside four times of year to give thanks to God for His marvelous creation. However, they are not “canon law” mandated fasts, so there is no penalty for not doing them.

The fasting for ember days is just like any other fasting day: two small meals and one regular meal. Friday is a regular day of abstinence, so no meat at all that day (usual Friday rules). On Wednesday and Saturday there is a partial abstinence, meaning that you should not eat meat for your two smaller meals. However, meat is permitted for the larger meal. If you are really struggling, try fasting from one thing or a food.

What do the winter Ember Days “celebrate”?

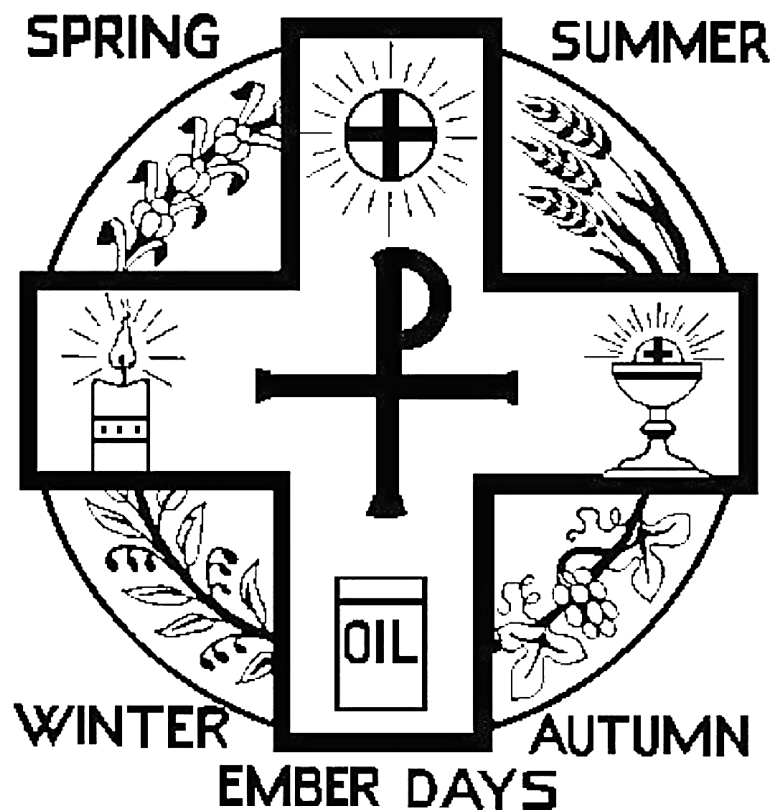
While all the Ember Days are for giving thanks to God for His creation, the winter Ember Days are traditionally set aside in thanksgiving for the olive harvest (usually August through November).

When are the other Ember Days and what do they “celebrate”?

Spring: the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday *after* Ash Wednesday; in thanksgiving for the bees and flowers

Summer: the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday *after* Pentecost; in thanksgiving for the wheat harvest

Autumn: the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday *after* the Feast of the Holy Cross; in thanksgiving for the grape harvest



2021 Advent Calendar

December 15

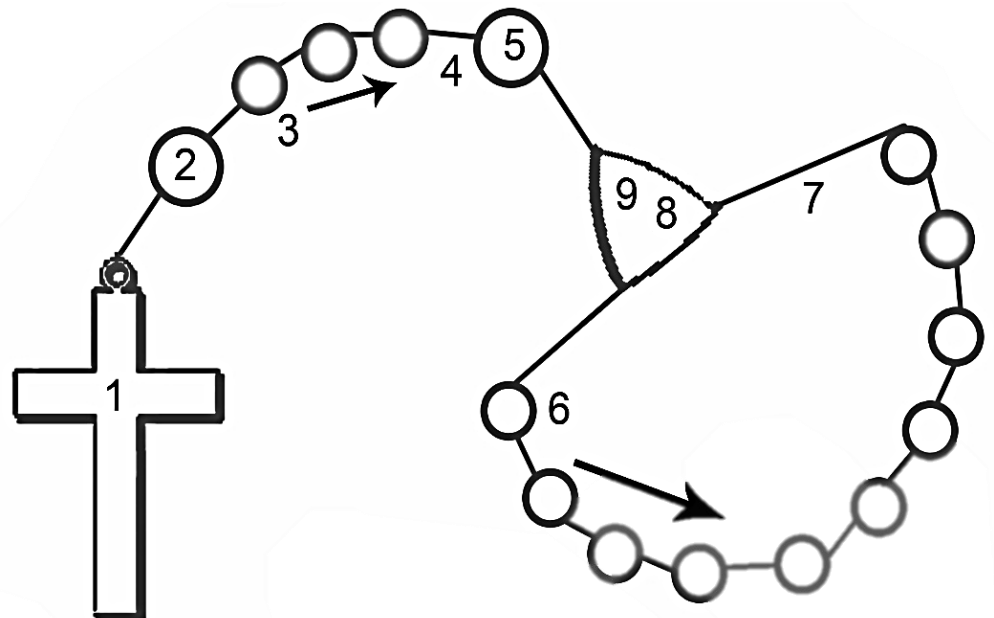
Read the meditations for the *Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity* (Luke 2:1-21).

1. Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem to comply with the census decree of Caesar Augustus.
2. The hour for Mary to give birth is near, but there is no room in the inn.
3. In the stillness of the night, the Savior is born in a cave; Mary remaining a Virgin.
4. She wraps Him in swaddling clothes and lays Him in a manger (animal food trough).
5. In unspeakable joy Mary gathers to her bosom the Flower of her virginity.
6. Jesus enters the world in poverty to teach the lesson of detachment from earthly things.
7. The angel announces to the shepherds: "Today there is born to you in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord."
8. The angelic chorus sing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth."
9. The shepherds come to the stable to pay homage to the Infant Jesus.
10. The Magi come to adore the Holy Child and offer Him gifts.

Spiritual Lesson: Poverty of Spirit

Try saying a single decade Rosary, using the above meditation. For each of the Hail Mary beads, use one of the meditations above. You can use the image below to mark off the prayers as you say them.

10. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
11. Say the Our Father.
12. Say three Hail Marys.
13. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
14. Announce the Mystery; then say the Our Father.
15. Say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery.
16. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
17. Say the Hail Holy Queen.
18. Make the Sign of the Cross.



2021 Advent Calendar

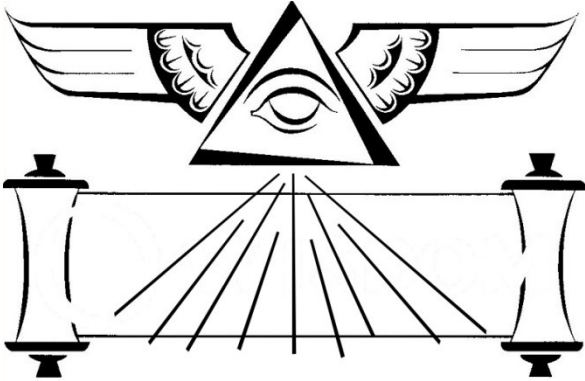
December 16

Color the nativity scene below or put out your family's crèche. Christ, our Lord, was born in a stable. What does your family's nativity have in it? Are there any animals? What about the Shepherds? Do you think a stable would be smelly? What kind of smells would the Baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph have smelled? Do you think laying in a hay-filled manger (an animal feed trough) would have been comfortable or warm?



2021 Advent Calendar

December 17



O Sapientia – O Wisdom

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

LATIN: *O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodidisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviter disponensque omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.*

December 18



O Adonai – O Lord of Israel

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

LATIN: *O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.*

December 19



O Radix Jesse – O Root of Jesse

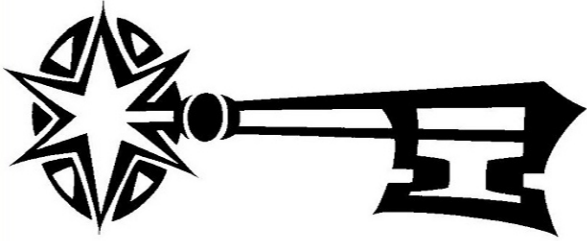
O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

LATIN: *O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.*

2021 Advent Calendar

December 20

O Clavis David – O Key of David



O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

LATIN: *O clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel: qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris.*

December 21

O Oriens – O Radiant Dawn



O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death.

LATIN: *O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris et umbra mortis.*

December 22



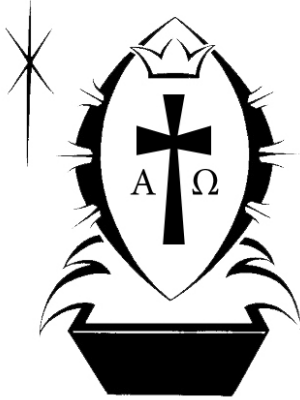
O Rex Gentium – O King of Nations

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

LATIN: *O Rex gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.*

2021 Advent Calendar

December 23



O Emmanuel – God is with Us!

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

LATIN: *O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos Domine Deus noster.*

December 24

Read the Christmas Story from the Bible.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS (LUKE 2:1-14)

Chapter 2

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

2021 Advent Calendar

December 25

Christmas Day! Go to Mass (if you did not already attend a Vigil Mass on December 24th). Look up the Mass times in your Church bulletin and write them below.

My Church: _____

Mass Times for Christmas Eve, December 24th (Vigil Masses): _____

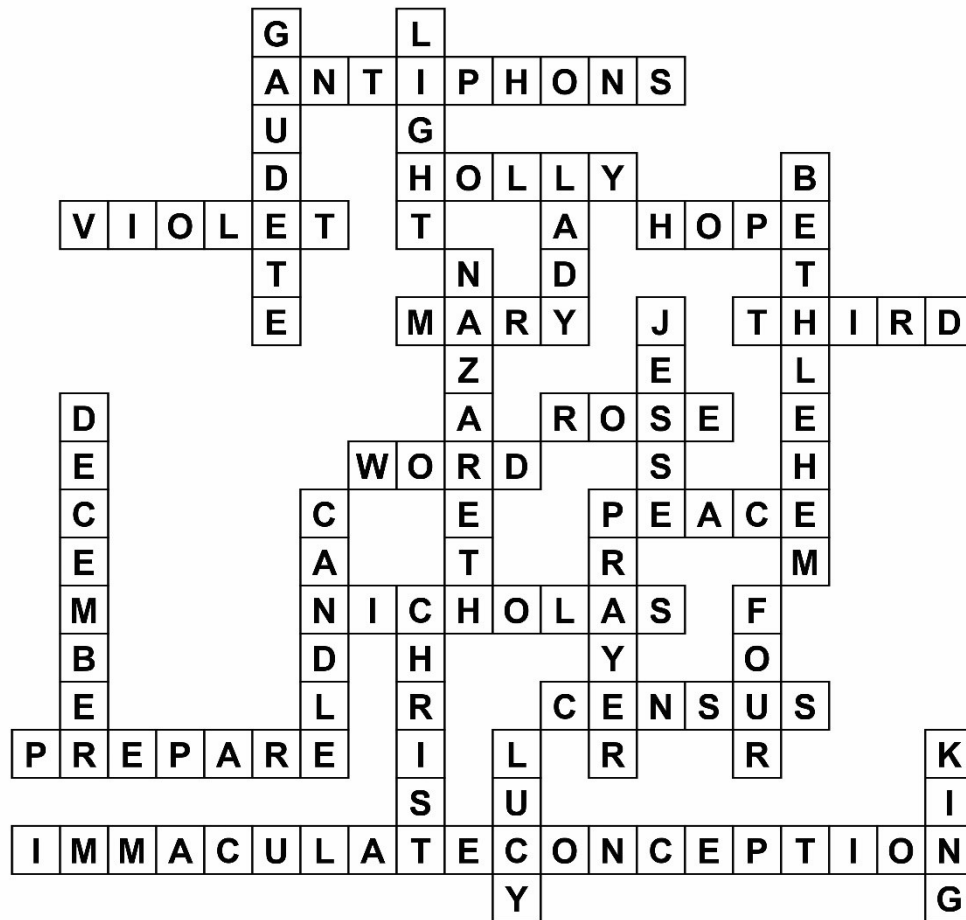
Mass Times for Christmas Day, December 25th: _____

WISHING YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY
A VERY MERRY
christmas
AND A BLESSED
new year

2021 Advent Calendar

December 3

Answers to crossword puzzle.



Advent



What does Advent mean?

Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means “coming.”

What is the purpose of Advent?

“Advent has a twofold character: as a time to prepare for the solemnity of Christmas when the Son of God’s first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, the season of Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.” (GNLY, 39)



Why wait for Christmas?

We need Advent! We are longing for the Lord! We are joyfully expecting Him and prayerfully preparing for His triumphant return! This liturgical season is for us to get ourselves ready for Christ. Don’t jump ahead!

How do you prepare?

How do you prepare when a friend comes over to visit? You clean house; you get yourself ready! You should do the same for the Lord. Go to Confession. Go to Mass. Pray. Prepare your heart and mind for Him.



When is Advent?

It is the liturgical period directly before Christmas—about four weeks. It is also the start of our liturgical year. Happy Catholic New Year!

When does Advent start?

Advent begins with Evening Prayer I on the Sunday falling on or closest to November 30th.

When does Advent end?

Advent ends before Evening Prayer I of Christmas (December 24th).

How long is Advent?

Depends on when the Sunday closest to November 30th is. It can be as short as 22 days or as long as 28 days. The season of Advent was originally a 40 day fast in preparation for Christmas. Many in the Byzantine Catholic Church still celebrate a 40 day Advent.



What are the colors for Advent?



Violet for all of Advent. Rose or violet may be used for Gaudete Sunday.

What is Gaudete Sunday?

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday in Advent. The name is taken from the Introit (entrance antiphon). *Gaudete* is Latin for Rejoice! This marks the midpoint of Advent, and the priest can wear rose vestments. But it is more than that! We are also reminded about the meaning of Advent in the readings. We are reminded about the coming of the Lord and our need to prepare. Advent is a time of devout and joyful expectation.



What are the O Antiphons?

The O Antiphons are the Magnificat (cantic) antiphons used at Vespers during the last seven days of Advent (December 17 through December 23). They are based on Isaiah. In order, the O Antiphons are: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Leader of the House of Israel), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Morning Star), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of Nations), and *O Emmanuel* (God is with Us).

Super cool fact: if you look at the O Antiphons from Christmas Eve backwards and take the first letter (*Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia*), it spells *ero cras* in Latin, which means “I come tomorrow.”

What are some Advent traditions?

There are many ways you can celebrate Advent. Count down the weeks with an Advent wreath. Make an Advent calendar to count the days or to help you and your family pray and do good works during Advent. Make a Jesse Tree to learn about the Bible stories from Creation to the Nativity. Read a daily devotional or gather with your family to say daily prayers.



How can you set Advent apart from Christmas?

Wait to decorate. Put off Christmas parties and gift giving until the Christmas season. Catholics don’t just have a day for Christmas. We have a whole SEASON!

CHRISTMAS



What does the term “Christmas” mean?

The word “Christmas” comes from the Old English “Cristes Maesse,” which means the Mass of Christ. The Latin term is *Dies Natalis*, which means birthday. In this instance, it refers to the birth of Christ.

When is Christmas?

“The season of Christmas runs from Evening Prayer I of Christmas (December 24) until the Sunday after Epiphany or after 6 January, inclusive.” (GNLY, 33)

When does Christmas begin?

It begins with Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of Christmas (Dec 24th).

When does Christmas end?

It ends the Sunday after Epiphany or after January 6th.

How long is Christmas?

Christmas is not just a day! Christmas—the birth of Christ—is so important that Catholics celebrate it for a whole season (about 2 weeks).

What is the purpose of Christmas?

“Next to the yearly celebrations of the paschal mystery, the Church considers nothing more Important than the memorial of Christ’s birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the season of Christmas.” (GNLY, 32)

What is the color for Christmas?

White (or gold) is used for all of Christmas with the exception of specific feast days (i.e. St. Stephen and Holy Innocents), which are red.

What are some Christmas traditions?

There are many wonderful Christmas traditions: going to Mass; setting up a manger; decorating a Christmas tree; caroling; putting evergreen wreaths around your home; baking Christmas treats; having Christmas parties DURING Christmas; and much more!

What is an octave?

Octave comes from Latin *octava* (eighth).

What is the Octave of Christmas?

The Octave of Christmas are the eight days from Christmas to January 1 (the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God), inclusive. Unlike the Octave of Easter, these days are NOT raised to Solemnities (except for Christmas and Mary, Mother of God). Therefore, the Friday during the Octave of Christmas does not “lift” the Friday obligation to do some sort of penance, as determined by the conferences of bishops.

What are the different days during the Octave of Christmas?

Sunday within the octave is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. If there is no Sunday, the feast is celebrated on 30 December.

December 25 – Christmas: Christ is born

December 26 – Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr and Deacon

December 27 – Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

December 29, 30, and 31 – Days within the Octave of Christmas

January 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

What are some Christmas symbols?

Some common symbols are a star, manger, mother and Child, the Holy Family, angels, 3 wise men, Christmas trees, holly and ivy, and poinsettias.

How do we set Christmas apart from Advent?

Use Advent as a time of preparation: pray, go to Confession, and go to Mass. Wait to decorate for Christmas. Put off Christmas parties and gift giving until the Christmas season. Catholics don’t just have a day for Christmas. We have a whole SEASON!