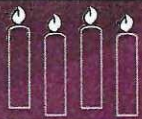




ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>The First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p>4</p> <p>What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart and life for the coming of Christ?</p>	<p>5</p> <p>"The liturgical Season of Advent ... invites us to go to the encounter with the Lord who comes through prayer, penitence and works of charity. Prepare yourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus with assiduous listening to the Word of God and a generous response to his grace."</p> <p>Pope Francis, Audience, November 30, 2022</p>	<p>6</p> <p>In honor of Saint Nicholas whose memorial we celebrate today, consider ways that you can share your time, treasure, and talent to assist those who are in need.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>On this Memorial of Saint Ambrose, a bishop and great teacher of the faith, pray for all clergy and others charged with forming others in the faith of the Church.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Today is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States of America. It is a holy day of obligation. Offer your Mass intention today for the needs of the nation.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Make plans to receive the gift of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance during this Advent season.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>The Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath and ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord."</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."</p> <p>Mark 1:10</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe who appeared to Juan Diego as a pregnant indigenous woman. Pray for all pregnant women and mothers and look for ways that you can walk with moms in need: Walking with Moms in Need</p>	<p>13</p> <p>In the bustle of the holiday season, spend some time this week in silence and prayer, possibly before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this blessing with your family and friends.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>"For the believer, the Word of God is not simply a text to read. The Word of God is a living presence, it is a work of the Holy Spirit that comforts, instructs, gives light, strength, relief, and a zest for life. To read the Bible, to read a piece, one or two passages of the Bible, is like a short telegram from God that immediately goes to the heart."</p> <p>Pope Francis, Audience, December 21, 2022</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>



ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>The Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. At this halfway point in the season of Advent, light two violet and the rose candles on your Advent wreath and Rejoice! For the Lord is near!</p>	<p>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me:</p> <p>he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,</p> <p>to heal the brokenhearted...</p> <p>to announce a year of favor from the LORD."</p> <p>Isaiah 61:1-2</p>	<p>"God, in the Christmas mystery, reveals himself not as One who remains on high and dominates the universe, but as the One who bends down, descends to the little and poor earth, it means that, to be like him, we should not put ourselves above others, but indeed lower ourselves, place ourselves at the service of others, become small with the small and poor with the poor."</p> <p>Pope Francis, Audience, December 18, 2022</p>	<p>"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.</p> <p>May it be done to me according to your word."</p> <p>Luke 1:38</p>	<p>Spend a family evening eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate while you read the Christmas cards you have received. Before bed, pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary for all your beloved family and friends.</p>	<p>Use this blessing to bless the nativity scene in your home:</p> <p>Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene USCCB</p>	<p>Reach out to those in your community who may be alone this Christmas and invite them to Mass and to share part of your celebration.</p>
24	25					
<p>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>This year, the Fourth Week of Advent lasts only one day. Light all three violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord.</p>	<p>"Jesus is born in our midst; he is God with us. He comes to accompany our daily lives, to share with us in all things: our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. He comes as a helpless child. He is born in the cold night, poor among the poor. In need of everything, he knocks at the door of our heart to find warmth and shelter."</p> <p>Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi Blessing, December 25, 2022</p>					
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