



ADVENT CALENDAR 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>December 2</p> <p>Begin this journey of Advent by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”</p>	<p>3</p> <p>In today’s Gospel, the centurion says, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof.” Make reading the daily Mass readings a part of your Advent this year.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>As you reflect on Mary’s journeys to see her kinswoman Elizabeth and then to find shelter in Bethlehem, pray for migrants traveling to find family, hope, and safe haven around the world today.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>“If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 Jn 1:10). Go to confession this season and enjoy Christmas with a clean heart and a peaceful soul, thanks to God’s mercy.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>On this feast day of St. Nicholas, consider purchasing a gift for a giving tree in your parish or office. St. Nicholas was known for abundant generosity to the poor.</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. Pray for those seeking to join the Church today.</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 US, take time to also pray for our country today.</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>On this Second Sunday of Advent, light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath and consider donating to a special collection for retired religious today.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>“The Lord promises refreshment and freedom to all the oppressed of our world, but he needs us to fulfill his promise. He needs our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters.” (Pope Francis, July 6, 2018)</p>	<p>11</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)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>On her feast day, pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, that she may “help us never see others as burdens,” especially migrants to our country and communities.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Today is the Memorial of St. Lucy, whose name means “light.” Think about how you can bring the light of Christ to newcomers and migrants in your community.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>St. John of the Cross, whom we honor today, was known for his deep spirituality and compassion. Reflect today on what more you can do to prepare spiritually for Christmas in these last 10 days of Advent.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>How much do you know about the plights refugees face today? Use this guide from Pope Francis’s Share the Journey Campaign to find out more.</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 currently seeking shelter around the world.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Yesterday was Gaudete Sunday when we shifted our reflection from “the Lord is coming” to “the Lord is near.” Rejoice! You are more than half way to Christmas!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>“Christ saved men not with thunder and lightning, but as a wailing babe in the manger and as a silent sufferer upon the cross” (St. Jerome, <i>Letters</i>, 82.1). Reflect on the humility of Christ today and on how you can see Christ in the poor and humble.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Ever wonder where the phrase “O Root of Jesse’s stem” comes from? Research how to make a Jesse tree and dive into Christ’s lineage.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Take time today to bless the family crèche. (Based on your family’s tradition, you may choose to hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>On this last Friday of Advent, make it a movie night with your friends or family and watch a Christmas classic.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>We learn in today’s Gospel that Mary spent three months with her kinswoman Elizabeth before returning home. Thousands of migrants today are traveling to look for a new home. Read some of their stories.</p>	
<p>23</p> <p>Add this “O Antiphon” to your daily or meal-time prayer today: “O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!” (Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition, 77)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” (Mt 1:23)</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the <i>New American Bible, Revised Edition</i>, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quotes from the <i>Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America</i>, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: CNS/Bob Roller.</p>					

