

Advent Calendar

Preparation:

1. Label the envelopes as follows:
 - a. One envelope each of
 - i. “Christmas Eve”—red envelope
 - ii. “Christmas”—gold or yellow envelope
 - iii. “First Sunday of Advent”—purple envelope
 - iv. “Second Sunday of Advent”—purple envelope
 - v. “Third Sunday of Advent”—pink envelope
 - vi. “Fourth Sunday of Advent”—purple envelope
 - b. Label the remaining envelopes as “Advent weekday”
2. Cut out the cards from the blackline master and place the appropriate cards in the envelopes, indicated by the card.
3. As you fill the envelopes, clip them to the string or twine using clothespins or paper clips in the order indicated on the cards. They will fit better if you attach them at the narrow end.
4. Notes:
 - a. Advent begins on the Sunday after the Feast of Christ the King, which is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. There are four Sundays in the season of Advent before Christmas, December 25.
 - b. Though there are always four Sundays, there are a different number of days in Advent each year, so check a liturgical calendar to find out the first day of the season. Because there are a different number of days in Advent each year, not all envelopes will be used each year.
 - c. Some of the cards go with a particular date. Use a calendar to help determine the placement of those cards so that they are opened on the correct day.
 - d. Christmas Eve and Christmas will always be the last two envelopes.

Activity:

After the first day, ask the students for the name of the person they learned about the previous day. Then invite them to share how they completed their call to action.

1. Each day, choose a student to open an envelope carefully and read what the card says.
2. As the student shows the image to the class, write the biblical person or saint’s name on the board.
3. Some cards have Scripture passages, and some have a small piece of information about the saint. Invite a student to either read the card out loud.
4. After the reading, share the call to action on the card.
5. Discuss how the saint lived that call to action and what it might look like in the students’ lives.
6. As a reminder of their call to action, clip the saint card where the envelope was.

Advent Calendar (Part 1)

First Sunday of Advent

Read Romans 13:11-14

Call to action: Choose a virtue to arm yourself with this advent and do one action today to grow in that virtue.



Second Sunday of Advent

Read Luke 3:1-6

Call to action: What is one way you are preparing the way for the Lord to come into your heart this Advent?



3rd Sunday of Advent (Laetare Sunday)

Read Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11

Call to action: How can you bring the good tidings of God's love to those around you?



4th Sunday in Advent

Read Luke 1:26-38

Call to action: Make God's glory known to the world by obeying your parents with joy.



Grade 4, Advent

Advent Calendar (Part 2)

Christmas Eve (Vigil)

Read Matthew 1:1-25

Call to action: Think of a time where you felt God was with you and thank Him for being present.



Christmas

Read Luke 2:1-14

Call to action: Think of one way you can love God in response to the gift of His Son.



Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30)

Saint Andrew the Apostle is the patron saint of Scotland, Russia, Greece, and fishermen.

Call to action: Pray the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena every day through Christmas Day (St. Andrew Christmas Novena – See Appendix.)



Saint Nicholas (December 6)

Nicholas was a Greek bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey). “Santa Claus” comes from the Dutch form of his name, “Sinter Klaas.”

Call to action: Saint Nicholas was known for his great acts of charity. Do a small act of love for another person.



Advent Calendar (Part 3)

Immaculate Conception (December 8)

God gave Mary the grace of being created without sin. We celebrate this gift on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Call to action: Ask Mary for help to learn to receive God's grace well.



Saint Juan Diego (December 9)

In 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico.

Call to action: Ask Saint Juan Diego to help you listen to Our Lady.



Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Our Lady left a miraculous image of herself on Saint Juan Diego's cloak. You can still see it in Guadalupe today.

Call to action: Pray a decade of the rosary with your family that everyone may come to know God's love.



Saint Lucy (December 13)

Saint Lucy was a Roman martyr. She later appeared in a vision to bring food to Sweden during a famine.

Call to action: Saint Lucy's name means "light". Say a prayer that God give you the light of grace to know what good you can do today.



Advent Calendar (Part 4)

1. Adam and Eve

Read Genesis 2:4-7; 18-25

All of humanity has dignity given to them by God.

Call to action: Spend time with someone who sits alone at lunch or has no one to play with at recess.



2. Noah

Read Genesis 9:8-17

Noah trusted and obeyed God. In response, God made a covenant with him and the whole world.

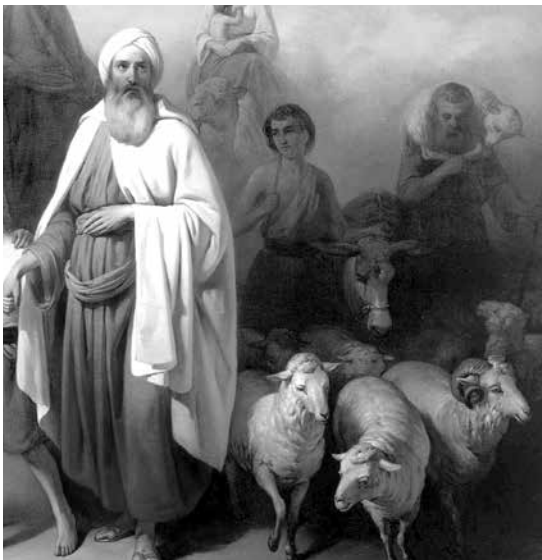
Call to action: Thank God for the covenant He has given us.



3. Abraham and Sarah

Read Genesis 12:1-3

Call to action: Think of a time in which you had faith and hope in the Lord during a hard time.



4. Isaac

Read Genesis 17:19

Isaac means “He laughs.”

Call to action: Help someone who is sad to feel better.



Grade 4, Advent

Advent Calendar (Part 5)

5. Jacob

Read Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob saw angels going up and down from Heaven.

Call to action: Offer a prayer up to Heaven. Thank God for a blessing He has sent down from Heaven.



6. Ruth and Boaz

Read Ruth 1:15-18 and Ruth 4:13-17

Ruth and Boaz were the grandparents of King David.

Call to action: Say a prayer for your grandparents.



7. Jesse

Read Isaiah 11:1-3

Jesse was the father of David and the ancestor of Jesus.

Call to action: Praise God for the story of salvation that leads us to Heaven.



8. King David

Read 2 Samuel 7:8B-16

When you were baptized, you became a priest, prophet, and king for the Lord.

Call to action: Choose a way you can live out one of these offices today.



Grade 4, Advent

Advent Calendar (Part 6)

9. King Solomon

Read 1 Kings 3:5-12

Solomon, at a young age asked for wisdom from God, and it was given to him.

Call to action: Think about a virtue you need (faith, hope, love, justice, prudence, fortitude, temperance) and ask God to fill you with the grace to be more virtuous.



10. Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth

Read Luke 1:39-45

God answered Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayer for a child.

Call to action: Think of a time God answered your prayer and praise God using Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).



11. Saint Joseph

Read Matthew 1:18-25

No words of Joseph were written in the Bible, but he listened carefully to God.

Call to action: Spend some time in silent prayer, preparing for Christmas.



12. Saint Matthew the Evangelist

Read Matthew 9:9

Matthew remembered what he saw and heard as he traveled with Jesus and shared it with others through his Gospel.

Call to action: Write or tell someone about a time you saw Jesus at work in your life.



Grade 4, Advent

Advent Calendar (Part 7)

13. Saint Mark the Evangelist

Read Mark 1:3

Saint Mark is shown with a lion because he described Saint John the Baptist as “one crying in the wilderness”, like a lion.

Call to action: Find one way you can prepare the way of the Lord.



14. Saint Luke the Evangelist

Read Luke 1:1-4

Saint Luke talked to many people to find out the truth about Jesus' life.

Call to action: Talk with a trusted friend or relative about their faith.



15. Saint John the Evangelist

Read John 14:1-3

Jesus came for the first time at Christmas. John reminds us that Jesus will come again at the end of time.

Call to action: As you make decisions today, live in preparation for Jesus' second coming.



16. Saint Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis set up the first nativity scene to remind people of Jesus' birth.

Call to action: Help to set up your family's nativity scene.



Advent Calendar (Part 8)

17. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

One Christmas, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux learned about God's love in a special way.

Call to action: Think of a Christmas gift that will help someone know the love of God. Get it ready to give to them on Christmas.



18. Servant of God Julia Greeley

When Jesus was born, His Sacred Heart was already burning with love for us.

Call to action: Write a letter or card to your local fire station. Thank them for their great works of charity. Write a prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for them. Share with them that you will ask for Julia Greeley's intercession.



19. Pope Saint John Paul II

In 1982, Pope John Paul II erected the first Christmas tree at the Vatican.

Call to action: Look up the meaning of the Christmas tree. As you decorate your tree, share its meaning with your family.



20. Blessed Carlo Acutis

"To me, being a Christian is to observe the world and bring my joy, my strength to others."

Blessed Carlo

Call to action: Find one way you can bring your joy and strength to others this Christmas season.

