

Advent Check List

Advent 2022 begins -- Sunday November 27

Holy Heroes Advent Adventure—it's free, so sign the kids up with just an email!

- Daily emails packed with activities, videos, audio, printables
 - (HINT: it has all the blessings & feast days & such that are mentioned below—and you get daily reminders so you don't have to remember everything!)
- Do you want access in advance (to prepare a classroom, Faith Formation, parish?)—then get **Advent Adventure Early Access**
- Tell your friends to sign up, too!
 - You can get pre-printed fliers for parish, school, club -or- print them off online (go to AdventAdventure.com)

Advent Calendar (to count down the days and keep track)

- Do you need any extras for friends, relatives, parish, school, club?
- Holy Heroes has a great fridge calendar (with stickers!) that has Advent on one side and the Christmas season on the other. Great to count down and be reminded of all the feast days, too, with plenty of room to write in family events and appointments during these very busy seasons.

Advent Wreath—ready to bless & light on the first Sunday of Advent (Nov 27 this year)

- Do you have one or need to get one or make one?
- Do you want to get wreaths for other family members and friends?
- Do you have an Advent wreath blessing for when you light the first candle?

Advent Candles (3 purple/violet and 1 rose/pink)

- Some families also use a single white candle for Christmas or replace all the candles with 4 white candles
- Do you want to get candles for other family members and friends? (Great Thanksgiving gift)
- Do you have prayers for every night when you light the candle(s) for the week?
- Do you need an extra purple/violet or rose/pink candle? A long Advent (and this one is long!) sometimes means candles need to be replaced!

Traditional family decorations (do you have any?)

- Think: statues, candles, bedroom decorations, Nativity Manger/creche, lights for the tree, garland, other?
- Do you need to get these things out of storage?
- Is anything broken or missing? Do you need to replace anything (especially tree lights!)?
- Do you put these things up at the beginning of Advent or at different times as Christmas approaches?
- Do you want to add anything new this year?

Christmas Tree

- Will purchase on this date: _____
- Bring decorations out from storage
- Lights—do they all work? If not, plan to purchase (earlier is more likely!)
- New decorations? Add to “sets” of decorations or new commemorative ones?

Jesse Tree—are you going to do this traditional Advent project? If so, consider:

- Jesse Tree itself—do you have one? Real, fake, paper?
- Jesse Tree Ornaments—what kind? Paper? Colored or colorable? Pre-made? Anything needed for them (glue, yarn, string, time to make them)?
- Schedule—what ornaments for what days (since Advent varies in length so you need to ensure that you have enough ornaments and/or not too many or a way to “make them fit” the calendar this year)
- Ornament “explanations”—what will you use to explain how the ornaments and the corresponding Scripture foreshadow the coming of Christ?

Sacrifice Manger—a traditional Advent project to make Jesus a “bed of sacrifices and good deeds”

- Do you have a “manger” or do you need to make one/purchase something?
- Do you have “straw”—yarn, string, other?
- List of sacrifices—do you want to encourage certain behaviors or just help a child’s imagination with suggestions?

Think of gifts & special feast days during Advent (do you celebrate special feast days during Advent?)

- **Advent Confession**—check area parishes for available dates and times during Advent
 - **Get the whole family to Confession—it’s the best way to prepare for Christmas!**
- First Friday in Advent 2022—Dec 2
- First Saturday in Advent 2022—Dec 3
- Saint Nicholas Day (Dec 6)—Patron saint of children
 - **REMEMBER:** Lay out shoes the night before -- Dec 5th
 - Get the “shoe stuffers” you need!
- Immaculate Conception (Dec 8)—a Holy Day of Obligation
 - You will go to Mass (where) _____ and when _____
 - Any special surprises, gifts, or foods?
- Saint Juan Diego (Dec 9)
- Our Lady of Loreto (Dec 10)
- Gaudete Sunday (Dec 11)—traditionally a day to make cookies and treats in anticipation of Christmas
 - Any special surprises, gifts, treats?
- Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12)—Patroness of the Americas
- Saint Lucy (Dec 13)—eldest daughter serves coffee and rolls to family
 - **REMEMBER:** Prepare the night before -- Dec 12th

- Wreath for her head?
- Ingredients, recipes for what she will serve?
- O Antiphons – begin Dec 17th every year and go until Dec 24th
 - Do you have the prayers & Scripture associated with each day?
 - Do you need ornaments? Pre-made?
- Christmas Eve traditions in your family?
 - Special foods – purchase all ingredients in advance on _____ (date)
- Mass for Christmas—Holy Day of Obligation (and in 2022 it's on Sunday!)
 - You will go to Mass (where) _____ and when _____
 - Any special surprises, gifts, or foods?

Think of Christmas gifts (and delivery times!)

- Suggested last mail dates for 2022
 - APO/FPO overseas: Dec 9th
 - International: Dec 6th
 - Domestic: Dec 17th
- List of those for whom you will buy gifts: friends, relatives, priests, deacons, seminarians? Godchildren, Confirmation sponsors/sponsors?
 - Any charitable donations or gifts?
 - Do you have addresses to mail these gifts—or hand-deliver?
- Christmas cards—do you send out BEFORE Christmas or DURING Christmas season?
- Related supplies: wrapping paper, cards, ribbon?

BONUS – Christmas Season planning

Does your family celebrate any special feast days or traditions during the Christmas Season?

- The Holy Innocents (Dec 28)
- Saint Thomas Becket (Dec 29)
- The Holy Family or Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (Dec 30)
- Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God (Jan 1)—Holy Day of Obligation
 - You will go to Mass (where) _____ and when _____
 - Any special surprises, gifts or foods?
- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (Jan 4)

Epiphany Home Blessing—a traditional Catholic blessing celebrated Jan 8, 2023 (new calendar) or Jan 6 (traditional) celebrating the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child

- Holy Heroes has a complete blessing kit with:
 - The blessing prayers, chalk, and holy water container?
 - You need to get the holy water!