

Advent & Christmas Paper Chain

Print this document double-sided. Color each strip, cut them out, and either loop them together to form a chain in date order or add one loop each day to decorate as you go. Each day, remove or add a link to reveal a prayer, reflection, or activity for Advent and Christmas. For the digital calendar, scan the QR code.

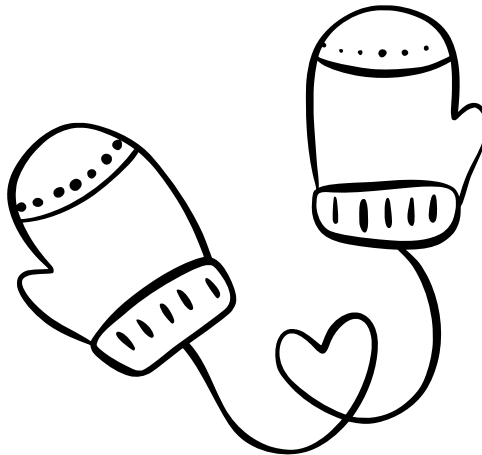


May Family Rosary accompany and bless your family throughout Advent and Christmas!

Sunday, November 30
First day of Advent

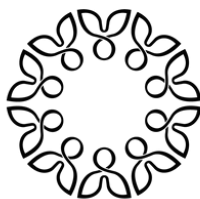


Monday, December 1



Tuesday, December 2





Family Rosary

HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Sunday, November 30

First day of Advent

Activity:

If you haven't already, create an Advent wreath with your family. It can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. Light the first purple candle each day this week (perhaps at dinner). Pray an "Our Father," "Hail Mary," and/or "Grace" together.

Monday, December 1

Prompt:

Ask each family member to choose a Fruit of the Holy Spirit—such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, or gentleness—to practice more intentionally during Advent.

Tuesday, December 2

Prompt:

Think of some ways you can incorporate prayer into your Advent season, such as grace before meals, weekly Rosary, sharing the Daily Mass Readings, or nightly prayer before the Nativity scene (creche).

Wednesday, December 3



Thursday, December 4



Friday, December 5



Saturday, December 6

Feast of Saint Nicholas



Wednesday, December 3

Prompt:

Say a “Hail Mary,” a decade, or an entire Rosary for someone on your heart or you know really needs God’s help today.

Thursday, December 4

Activity:

Ask each member of your family to write individual “thank you notes” to each person in the family. Then, share the notes with each other during dinner or before bed.

Friday, December 5

Prompt:

Take turns sharing your favorite Christmas memories. If you have time, look through old family photos or videos.

Saturday, December 6

Feast of Saint Nicholas

Activity:

In celebration of the Feast of Saint Nicholas purchase or make a gift that you can donate to a children’s charity or give your gift directly to someone in need.

Sunday, December 7
Second Sunday of Advent



Monday, December 8
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



Tuesday, December 9
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Wednesday, December 10



Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Activity:

Today, light two purple candles on your Advent wreath. Resolve to start each day with a short prayer — either alone or as a family.

Monday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Activity:

Today is also the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. If you are not familiar with this special day, consider spending some time as a family learning more.

Tuesday, December 9

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Activity:

Draw or color a picture of the Blessed Mother as she appeared to Saint Juan Diego. You may also enjoy reading an account of Saint Juan Diego's encounter with Our Lady in 1531.

Wednesday, December 10

Activity:

Do something kind for a neighbor or friend.

Thursday, December 11




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Friday, December 12




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Saturday, December 13

Feast of Saint Lucy




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday of Advent




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Thursday, December 11

Activity:

Offer to help someone in your family with a chore today.
Offer it up as a form of prayer.

Friday, December 12

Activity:

Take a walk or drive around with your family to enjoy the
Christmas lights and decorations.

Saturday, December 13

Feast of Saint Lucy

Prompt:

Say a “Hail Mary” and ask our Blessed Mother to guide
the Church today.

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Activity:

After you light two purple candles and one rose candle on your
Advent wreath, pray a decade of the Rosary with your family,
meditating on the Joyful Mystery of the Annunciation. Visit
FamilyRosary.org for many Rosary prayer resources.

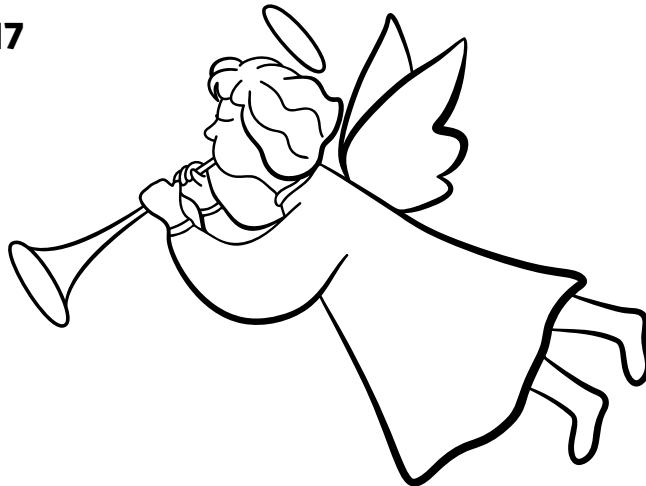
Monday, December 15



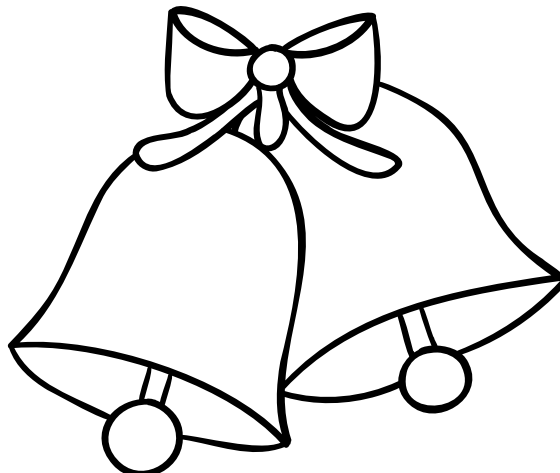
Tuesday, December 16



Wednesday, December 17



Thursday, December 18



Monday, December 15

Activity:

Light a candle and ask one member of the family to read the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) with your family.

Tuesday, December 16

Activity:

Begin praying the “O Antiphons” continue each day until Christmas Eve. One idea is to read one aloud each day after family dinner or evening before bed.

Wednesday, December 17

Prompt:

Say a prayer together asking Mary to help you prepare to welcome Jesus, her Son, into your hearts and homes.

Thursday, December 18

Prompt:

Christmas is almost here! Prepare by checking when Confession is offered at your parish and go as a family. For children too young to receive the Sacrament, talk about the importance of forgiving and asking for forgiveness. Many excellent examinations of conscience are available online, tailored to different ages and vocations.

Friday, December 19



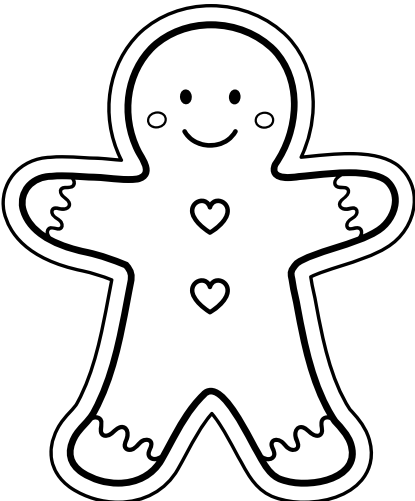
Saturday, December 20



Sunday, December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Monday, December 22



Friday, December 19

Activity:

Listen to all verses of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(videos with lyrics are available on YouTube),
and feel free to sing along.

Saturday, December 20

Activity:

Make a card for any priests, deacons, or religious at your parish,
wishing them a Merry Christmas and thanking them for their
“yes” to God’s calling and all they do for your church.

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Activity:

After you light all four candles of your Advent wreath, share
what you are most looking forward to this Christmas (aside
from gifts, of course).

Monday, December 22

Prompt:

“God is Love” (1 John 4:16). Share some (of the many) ways we
experience God as love.

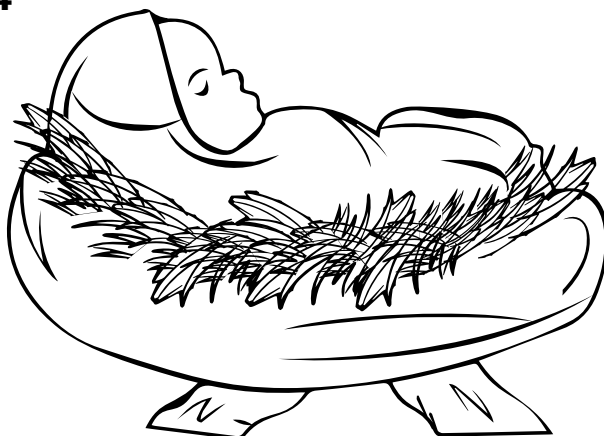
Tuesday, December 23




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Wednesday, December 24

Vigil of Christmas




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Thursday, December 25

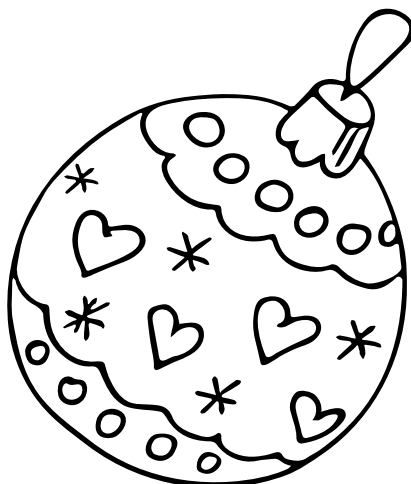
Christmas Day




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Friday, December 26

Feast of Saint Stephen




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Tuesday, December 23

Prompt:

At a meal with your family, share examples of how you saw Christ present throughout your day. Discuss how you can be more attentive to Him as you get ready for Christmas.

Wednesday, December 24

Vigil of Christmas

Prompt:

Today is the Vigil of Christmas, also known as Christmas Eve! Read the Bible story of Jesus' birth, Luke 2:1-20. Then share what Jesus' birth means to each of you.

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

Prompt:

Merry Christmas! Take five quiet minutes to pray to Jesus, thanking Him for coming to redeem us. Attend Mass as a family; be sure to invite any visiting family to join you.

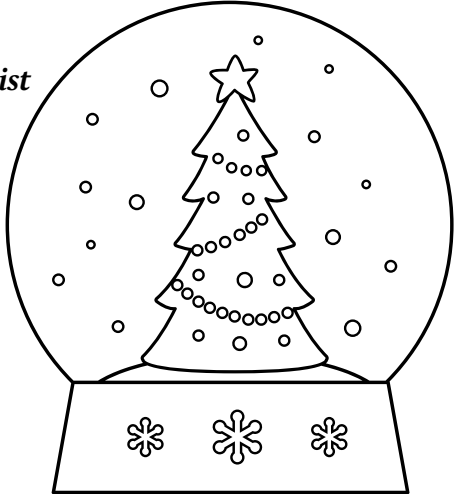
Friday, December 26

Feast of Saint Stephen

Prompt:

Saint Stephen was one of the Church's first deacons (ordained with the specific call to humbly serve those in need). Today, offer a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy.

Saturday, December 27
Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist



Sunday, December 28
Feast of the Holy Innocents



Monday, December 29



Tuesday, December 30
Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas



Saturday, December 27

Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

Activity:

Prepare a meal as a family! Take the time to bond and think of God's presence in your family.

Sunday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Activity:

Purchase diapers, formula, or clothing to donate to a crisis pregnancy center.

Monday, December 29

Activity:

As the end of the year approached, gather as a family to pray one decade of the Rosary. During each Hail Mary, invite each person to quietly thank God for one blessing from the past year.

Tuesday, December 30

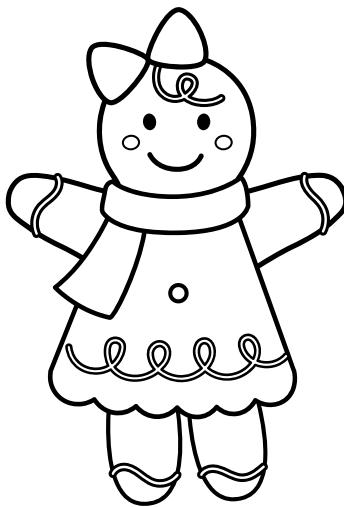
Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

Activity:

It is still the Christmas Octave! Sing Christmas carols with your family today.

Wednesday, December 31

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph*



Thursday, January 1

*Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God*



Friday, January 2



Saturday, January 3

Holy Name of Jesus



Wednesday, December 31

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph*

Prompt:

Take time today to share something you appreciate about each member of your family. Afterwards, take some time to pray for each other either together or on your own.

Thursday, January 1

*Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God*

Prompt:

Say a prayer to Mary with your family, thanking her for saying “yes” to being the Mother of God and asking her to help you to love her Son.

Friday, January 2

Prompt:

Discuss as a family, one thing you can each do this year to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

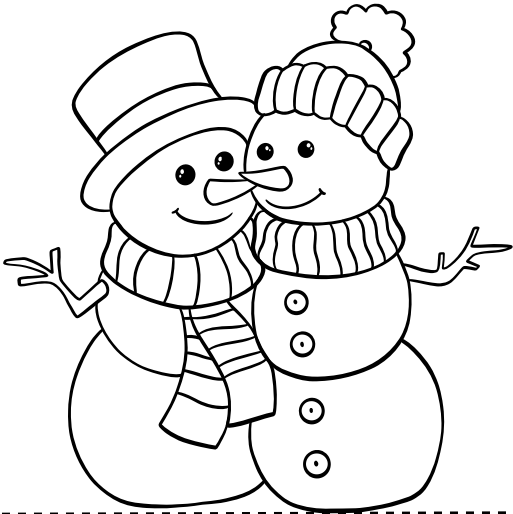
Saturday, January 3

Holy Name of Jesus

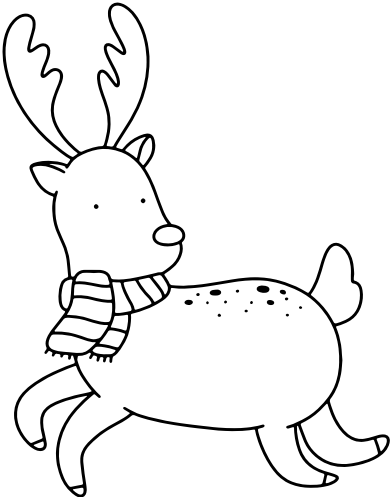
Prompt:

Read Matthew 1:18-25. Did you know that Emmanuel, a name for Jesus, means “God is with us.”? Does your name have a special meaning? Are you named after someone special? Discuss the origins of the names of your family members.

Sunday, January 4
Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



Monday, January 5



Tuesday, January 6
Feast of Saint André Bessette



Wednesday, January 7
Feast of the Epiphany



Sunday, January 4

Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Prompt:

Pray for teachers, catechists, and parents today.

Monday, January 5

Prompt:

Visit someone who might be alone, lonely, or would just love to hear from you. If you can't visit, give them a call (or Zoom)—have each family member take a minute to say hello!

Tuesday, January 6

Feast of Saint André Bessette

Activity:

Hold the door open for someone today. Read more about Saint Andre Bessette [St. André Bessette: A Model of Faith for All (familyrosary.org)].

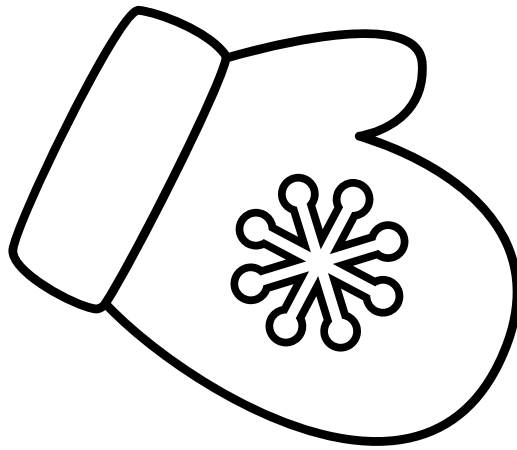
Wednesday, January 7

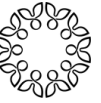
Feast of the Epiphany

Prompt:

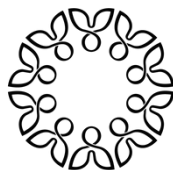
Like the Magi, give Jesus a gift today! The best gift we can give Him is our love, so spend five minutes talking to Jesus and telling Him that you love Him.

Thursday, January 8
The Baptism of the Lord




Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Thursday, January 9



Family Rosary

HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Thursday, January 8

The Baptism of the Lord

Prompt:

Today is the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord! Pray a decade of the Rosary and meditate on this Luminous mystery.

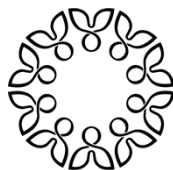
Thursday, January 9

Prompt:

Discuss with your family how you can continue to say “yes” to God like Mary, even when the Christmas season is over. The Father Peyton Family Rosary novena starts today, the anniversary of his birth.

Bonus: Join Holy Cross Family Ministries in praying a Novena to Venerable Patrick Peyton

[<https://www.familyrosary.org/fatherpeytonnovena>]!



Family Rosary

HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES