

2016 2017

...people are instructed in the truths of the faith and brought to appreciate the inner joys of religion far more effectively by the annual celebration of our sacred mysteries than by any official pronouncement of the the teaching of the Church.

Such pronouncements usually reach only a few and the more learned among the faithful;

feasts reach them all

POPE PIUS XI, DECEMBER 11, 1925

Advent - Consider First

This book became a reality over a period of years - time which I spent joyfully uncovering the riches and traditions within the Catholic Church for my own family - traditions that prepare the heart for the great feast of Christmas. Without preparation, we may arrive at Christmas morning without first quietly considering the great gift in the Nativity. Advent is a season of quiet preparation in the home and the heart, and this atmosphere is cultivated carefully in our plans and activities. Consider first...

As you consider the pages and ideas here (some are my own, most are compiled and gathered from other out of print resources listed at the end of the book), and plan what you will bring into your own home as you set the atmosphere of preparation during Advent, please consider your family and your own time availability. One does not have to check off everything listed here to enjoy a beautiful and rich Advent! The ideas and resources provided here are for your consideration - not to overburden nor dismiss the quiet richness within the season of Advent. We wait in joyful hope!

Waiting with you... Jennifer Mackintosh

	Year	History & Significance to the Christmas Solemnity:	
The Roman Church	4th century	Around the year 320, after the last of the great persecutions, the Church officially assigned the date of December 25th for the celebration of Christmas. This date was chosen to unify the Church in celebrating, and to replace the pagan celebration of winter solstice with a Christian holiday	
The Roman Church	5th century	3 Masses celebrated on Christmas day, the first traditionally held at Midnight	
Emperor Theodosius	4 ² 5	Forbade cruel circus games on Christmas day	
Bishop Perpetuus of Tours	490	Issued a regulation that a fast should be held on three days of every week from the Feast of St. Martin (November 11) to Christmas.	
Council of Agde	506	Urged all Christians to receive Holy Communion on Christmas day	
Emperor Justinian	529	Prohibited work and public business, declaring Christmas a civic holiday	
Council of Braga	5 ⁶ 3	Forbade fasting on Christmas day	
Council of Tours	567	Proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season, and established the duty of Advent fasting in preparation for the feast	
St. Gregory the Great	604	Preached a series of homilies on Advent. St. Gregory shaped the basic structure of the Roman Advent.	
The Roman Church	gth century	The penitential season of Advent becomes universally observed in the 9th century. From the middle of the 4th century to the 9th, a period of preparation for the Feast of the Nativity was observed in Rome, spreading to Spain, France and later Germany and was referred to as Quadragesima Sancti Martini (Forty Days Fast of St. Martin's). The fast began at different times in different areas until the Church united the preparation time. Various customs and the character of Advent were compromised on - from highly penitential (Gallic) to more joyful expectancy (Roman) - and by the 13th century the liturgical observance of Advent was set. The prayers and liturgical services of the penitential season of Advent stress the preparation for the coming of Christ and the joyful expectation of the Lord's Nativity.	

Traditional Advent & Christmas Customs

Advent Wreath — The burning of candles every night during Advent for a few minutes while the family recites a common prayer in preparation for Christmas. All other lights are extinguished. This is to prepare the family to receive the Light of the World. There are 4 candles attached to a laurel or evergreen wreath, one candle for each week of Advent.

St. Andrew's Novena — It is piously believed that whoever recites this prayer fifteen times a day from the feast of St. Andrew (30th November) until Christmas will obtain what is asked.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Imprimatur + Michael Augustine, Archbishop of New York New York, February 6, 1897

Writing Letters to St. Nicholas — Children of Bavaria and Austria would write short notes to St. Nicholas and leave them on their windowsills on the night of December 5th. The notes are addressed to "the dear Christ Child in Heaven." Some lists contain wishes, but traditionally these lists contained resolutions the children wished to work on during Advent. St. Nicholas is supposed to take them with him when he visits that night. In South America children write their notes to the "little Jesus" during the time of the Posada (from December 16 - 24) and put them in front of The Crib. They believe the angels take them to Heaven during the night.

The Christmas Crib & Preparing the Manger — An empty wooden manger is set up in a place of prominence in the home. Nearby is a small basket of hay. Every evening, the children of the family recall the virtues offered or good deeds performed and place within the crib pieces of hay to prepare a soft bed for the Christ Child. On the Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity, by candlelight, the youngest child processes to the Christmas Crib with the small figure of the Infant Christ and lovingly lays Him to rest in the softly and tenderly prepared Christmas Crib. (a small baby doll can be used to represent the Infant Jesus.)

Christkindl — All the names of the family members are written on small pieces of paper and placed in a hat or a large bowl. Secretly, each member of the family chooses a name. The name drawn will be in someone's special care for the entire season. This new relationship is called "Christkindl" (Christ Child). From <u>Around the Year With the Trapp Family:</u>

From this day until Christmas, one has to do as many little favors for him or her as one can. One has to provide at least one surprise every single day - but without ever being found out. This creates a wonderful atmosphere of joyful suspense, kindness, and thoughtfulness. Perhaps you will find that somebody has made your bed or shined your shoes or has informed you, in a disguised handwriting on a holy card, that "a rosary has been said for you today" or a number of sacrifices have been offered up. ~ The person whose name I have drawn and who is under my care becomes for me the helpless little Christ Child in the manger; and as I am performing these many little acts of love and consideration for someone in the family I am really doing them for the Infant of Bethlehem, according to the word, "And he that shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth me."

Advent Calendars — This custom began in Germany. A scene of some kind is depicted on a large piece of cardboard or wood and each day of Advent, a little window is opened to reveal a picture or symbol that points toward Christmas. On Christmas Eve, a large window is opened to reveal a Nativity scene.

Lights in the Windows — Of Irish origin, this custom of placing lighted candles in the window at Christmas was meant to welcome the stranger as Christ.

Yule Log — This special and very large log was selected especially for burning on the Holy Night to be kept burning through Christmas day. Sometimes this log is selected on Candlemas of the previous year and stored to dry until the next Christmas.

O Antiphons — The O Antiphons are Magnificat antiphons sung or recited at Vespers (the sunset or evening prayers of the Church) on the last seven days of Advent (December 17 - 23). The origin of the O Antiphons can be traced back to a 6th century Benedictine Abbey and by the 8th century they had been incorporated into the liturgical rhythm of the Church. The O Antiphons bring the Advent preparations to a joyful conclusion.

Las Posadas — In other cultures referred to as The Golden Nights. In Spain and Mexico, the Posada is the period of nine days before Christmas from December 16 - 24. On the nights of Las Posadas, families walk in procession knocking at doors asking for entrance just as the Holy Family did. They are refused. Only on Christmas Eve does the door open and families enjoy warm drinks and refreshments while children are treated to fun with a Pinata. This can be duplicated in the family home with the doors of the bedrooms closed and Mother, Father, and youngest child seeking admittance, while all other siblings refuse admittance.until the last. It would be traditional to carry around a statue or piece of original artwork of the Holy Family, St. Joseph or the Blessed Virgin as you bring them with you seeking admittance for the Holy Night. (Carrying St. Joseph & Carrying the Virgin are traditions in Europe)

Advent Plays — Similar to the Posadas, this is a drama usually offered by children depicting the Holy Family's fruitless efforts to find shelter in Bethlehem.

Novena to the Holy Child — Begin this novena nine days before Christmas. In Mexico and Spain, the prayers of the Novena to the Holy Child as well as special Advent carols (anticipating His Birth) are recited and sung. Afterward families process together as part of the Las Posadas procession, seeking admittance to shelter as the Holy Family did on the Holy Night, also being turned away_until the Holy Night.

Rorate Mass — In the early morning before sunrise of the Golden Nights (the 9 days before Christmas), a votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin for Advent is offered. Called Rorate because of the first words of its text:

Rorate coeli desuper -- Dew of Heaven, shed the Just One.

By special permission, this Mass may be sung every morning before dawn during the nine days preceding Christmas provided the custom existed there from ancient times. The faithful come carrying lanterns and candles through the dark.

St. Thomas' Day — (December 21) On St. Thomas' day, it is customary for farmers, accompanied by an older son or farmhand, to sprinkle incense and holy water around the farm as they walk. The rest of the family remains in the living room of the home reciting the Rosary. This is done to sanctify and bless the farm for Christmas and ask God's blessing and special protection for the upcoming year. This is a Christianized version of a similar European custom of "driving demons away" on St. Thomas' day.

Christ Candle — On Christmas Eve a large candle is placed in the center of the Advent wreath symbolizing Christ the Light of the World. This is the Christmas candle. Light the Christ candle every day throughout the Octave of Christmas.

Blessing of Homes — This is traditionally done on the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the prayer recited:

Bless, O Lord, almighty God, this house, that therein be found good health, chastity, the power of spiritual victory, humility, goodness and meekness. the plentitude of the Law, and thanksgiving to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: and may this blessing remain on the house and on its inhabitants. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Following the prayer, using blessed chalk, the Father chalks above the frame of the door the initials of the 3 Magi - Gaspar, Melchior, Balthasar - framed by the number of the year and all figures connected by a cross:

The End of the Season — The Liturgical season extends to the end of the Octave of the Epiphany - January 13. Many remove Christmas decorations after the Feast of the Epiphany.

"The Events that come to mind when we say "Christmas," "Easter," "Pentecost," are so tremendous that their commemoration cannot be celebrated in a single day each. Weeks are needed. First, weeks of preparation, of becoming attuned in body and soul, and then weeks of celebration. This goes back to an age when people still had time -- time to live, time to enjoy. In our own day, we face the puzzling fact that the more time-saving gadgets we invent, the more new buttons to push in order to "save hours of work" -- the less time we actually have. We have no more time to read books; we can only afford digests. We have no time to walk a quarter of a mile; we have to hop into a car. We have no time to make things by hand. The atmosphere of "hurry up, let's go" does not provide the necessary leisure in which to anticipate and celebrate a feast. But as soon as people stop celebrating they really do not live any more -- they are being lived, as it were. The alarming question arises: what is being done with all the time that is constantly being saved?

Only the Church throws light onto the gloomy prospects of modern man - Holy Mother Church - for she belongs, herself, to a realm that has its past and present in Time, but its future in the World Without End."

~ Maria Augusta Trapp, Around the Year with the Trapp Family

Advent Hymns

as listed in Around the Year with the Trapp Family, Fr. Weiser's The Christmas Book, The St. Gregory Hymnal, The Adoremus Hymnal

You Heavens, Dew Drop From Above
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Drop Your Dew, Ye Clouds of Heaven
O Savior, Heaven's Portal Rend
Maria Walks Amid the Thorn
Blessed Mother of the Savior
O Christmas Tree
O Come All Ye Faithful
Behold, Behold He Cometh
Hark! A Mystic Voice is Sounding
Savior of the Nations, Come
Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

	Sunday	Making and Preparing Home: Hang Advent wreath	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Nov. 27	First Sunday of Advent	 Set out Crib with basket of hay beside it for good deeds - for each good deed a child may soften Our Lord's creche with a piece of hay. Set up Jesse Tree Set out Advent Reading Basket Advent music out 	* <u>Little Lives of the Great Saints</u> by John O'Kane Murray (St. Gregory the Great) because of his great contribution to the development of the Season of Advent within the Church. * <u>The Christmas Story</u> by Jane Werner (1952, A Little Golden Book)
		Advent Prayers - First Week: Let us pray Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Who livest and reignest for ever. Amen.	
Nov. 28	Monday Feria	Making and Preparing Home: Consider a plan for cleaning, preparing and readying the home for the Christmas Feast	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * Marta and the Manger Straw by Virginia Kroll
Nov. 29	Tuesday Feria		
	Wednesday St. Andrew	Begin St. Andrew's Novena Recite the following prayer 15 times daily through Christmas:	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. Andrew)
Nov. 30		Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen	
Dec 1	Thursday Feria		
Dec. 2	Friday St. Bibiana		PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * <u>Saints for Young People</u> by Daughters of St. Paul (St. Bibian
Dec. 3	Saturday St. Francis Xavier	CCC DVD - Francis Xavier and the Samurai's Lost Treasure	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * <u>Little Lives of the Great Saints</u> by John O'Kane Murray (St. Francis Xavier)

Week 1 - Preparing the Way - Making and Preparing Heart & Home

A plan for preparing and readying the heart and home for the Christmas Feast

Advent + Week 2

	Sunday	Advent Prayers - Second Week: Let us pray.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
	Second Sunday of Advent	O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure souls. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	* Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Barbara) * Wonderworker: The True Story of How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus by Vincent Yzermans
Dec. 4		Begin Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe	
		ADVENT CUSTOM St. Barbara's Branch Snip branches of fruit trees on the Feast of St. Barbara and bring inside to place in a vase. These should bloom by Christmas and are used to decorate the Christmas Crib.	
	Monday	ADVENT CUSTOM Write notes to the "dear child Jesus in heaven" to leave on	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
	St. Sabbas	windowsills. St. Nicholas will take them when he visits tonight.	* <u>The Miracle of St. Nicholas</u> by Gloria Whelan * <u>Christmas and the Saints</u> by Hertha Pauli (St. Nicholas)
		Set out Stockings for St. Nicholas to fill after the children are in bed	
Dec. 5		ADVENT CUSTOM Toast the Vigil of St. Nicholas with Bishop's Wine	
		In the Kitchen - Bishop's Wine Heat the following and serve hot! Bottle of red burgundy wine ¾ - 1 cup sugar ¼ teaspoon cinnamon grated orange wine	
	Tuesday	In the Kitchen:	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 6	St. Nicholas	In the Litchen: Speculaas or St. Nicholas cookies CCC DVD - Nicholas: the Boy Who Became Santa	* <u>The Real Santa Claus</u> by Marianna Mayer * <u>Saint Nicholas</u> by Julie Stegmeyer
Dec. 7	Wednesday St. Ambrose	Making and Preparing Home: Revisit the plan for cleaning, preparing and readying the home for the Christmas Feast.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING

Dec. 8	Thursday HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Craft: - Our Lady, a Garden Enclosed - Using a small pot, assemble a small garden for Our Lady (use natural materials or dried flowers and moss). Place holy card or small statue of Our Lady in the center of the garden enclosed. (Symbolism: Our Lady is a Garden Enclosed) In the Kitchen: Sweet Cinnamon Swirl Bread for Our Lady who, "gave forth sweet smell like cinnamon and aromatic balm" CCC DVD - Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Bernadette) "I am the Immaculate Conception" - Our Lady to St. Bernadette * Our Lady's Feasts by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 3 - 9 (The Immaculate Conception)
Dec. g	Friday Feria St. Juan Diego (new Calendar)	CCC DVD - Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * <u>The Donkey's Dream</u> by Barbara Helen Berger * <u>Our Lady's Feasts</u> by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 79 - 84 (Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Graces)
Dec. 10	Saturday St. Melchiades Our Lady of Loretto (Historical)	Our Lady of Loretto Litany	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
)eek 2	- Prepar	ing the Way - Making and for preparing and readying the heart and t	ind Preparing Heart & Hom Thome for the Christmas Feast

	Sunday	<u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> A Christmas Tree	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
	Third Sunday of Advent	Advent Prayers - Third Week: Let us pray.	* Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#13, Preparing for the Christ)
	Gaudete Sunday	We humbly beg Thee, O Lord, to listen to our prayers; and by the grace of Thy coming bring light in to our darkened	
Dec. 11	Our Lady Queen of the Angels (Historical)	minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.	
		Our Lady Queen of the Angels Consider setting up a small vignette with unbreakable statues - Our Lady as Queen, surrounded by Angels in adoration (Fontanini is an excellent source for lovely, unbreakable figures)	
	Monday	<u>In the Kitchen:</u> Mexican Hot Chocolate	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Making and Preparing Home: Place roses under a statue of Our Lady in remembrance of her gift of roses to St. Juan Diego	* <u>The Lady of Guadalupe</u> by Tomie de Paola * <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#13, The Story Told in the Gospels * <u>The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe</u> by C. Lourdes Walsh
	Tuesday	Making and Preparing Home:	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
	St. Lucy	Set out candles and light them as St. Lucy brought light in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity Advent Custom: The youngest girl of the family, dressed in a white dress with a wreath on her head, and lit candles on the wreath, wakes the family offering a tray of coffee and cakes. (Swedish/Scandinavian tradition)	* Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Lucy) * Hanna's Christmas by Melissa Peterson (Wiley) * Lucia, Saint of Light by Katherine Bolger Hyde * Kirsten's Surprise: A Christmas Story by Janet Shaw * Lucia: Child of Light by Florence Ekstrand * * Heroines of Christ by Joseph Husslein The Maid that Conquered - Lucy by Francis Anglim
Dec. 13		Saint Lucy - "light bringer" is a reflection of the great Light of the World which will shine on Christmas day.	
		Advent Custom: Christmas Wheat	
		Plant a small container of wheat on the Feast of St. Lucy. Water and tend so that on Christmas you will have the gift of wheat (bread for sustenance in the natural order and The Bread of Life in the supernatural order.) to place near the Christmas Crib.	

	Wednesday	Traditional day of fast and partial abstinence	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 14	Ember Wednesday		* Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children
Dec. 14	St. John of the Cross (new calendar)		by the Maryknoll sisters (#18, The Rich Man and Lazarus)
Dec. 15	Thursday Feria	<u>Craft:</u> O Antiphon House In preparation for the O Antiphons, construct a small framed house out of cardboard with g window flaps that open to reveal the g symbols of the O Antiphons.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
	Friday	Traditional day of fast and abstinence	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 16	Ember Friday	Begin Novena to the Holy Infant Jesus Las Posadas Begins (9 days before Christmas)	Nine Days to Christmas, A Story of Mexico by Marie Hall Et & Aurora Labastida * <u>The Night of Las Posadas</u> by Tomie de Paola
	Saturday	Traditional day of fast and partial abstinence	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
	Ember Saturday	O Antiphons Begin	* Prayer companion for O Antiphons
Dec. 17		Resource: For O Antiphon prayer companion: http:// maryellenb.typepad.com/files/o-antiphons-prayer- companionm2.012.pdf (copyright Jennifer Gregory Miller, 2012)	
		O Sapientia O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come, and redeem us with outstretched arm.	

A plan for preparing and readying the heart and home for the Christmas Feast

Advent + Week 4

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Dec. 18	Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent	Making and Preparing Home: Christmas greenery out Advent Prayers - Fourth Week: Let us pray. Stir up Thy might, we pray Thee, O Lord, and come; rescue us through Thy great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins, may be hastened by the grace of Thy gentle mercy. Who livest and reignest for ever. Amen. O Adonai O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: come, and redeem us with outstretched arm.	* Prayer companion for O Antiphons
Dec. 19	Monday Feria	O Radix Jesse O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: come to deliver us, and tarry not.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS * Prayer companion for O Antiphons
Dec. 20	Tuesday Feria	O Clavis David O Key of David, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts; who shuts and no man opens: come, and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS * Prayer companion for O Antiphons
Dec. 21	Wednesday St. Thomas theApostle St. Peter Canisius (new calendar)	Advent Custom: St. Thomas' Day blessing of farms O Oriens O Dawn of the East, brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of Justice: come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS * Prayer companion for O Antiphons * Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Thomas)
Dec. 22	Thursday Feria	O Rex Gentium O King of the Gentiles and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: come, and deliver man, whom You formed out of the dust of the earth.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * Prayer companion for O Antiphons
Dec. 23	Friday Feria St. John Cantius (new Calendar)	O Emmanuel O Emmanuel, God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: come to save us, O Lord our God.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS * Prayer Companion for O Antiphons * Our Lady's Feasts by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 39 - 45 (The Nativity of Christ) * Mary, Mother of Jesus by Tomie de Paola

	Saturday	Traditional day of Fast	Read the Gospel Account of the Nativity Luke 2:10 - 14
	THE VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY	EVENING OF LAS POSADAS	
	OF OUR LORD	Enthroning the Child	
Dec. 24		Baby Jesus is enthroned in the creche at midnight	
	Christmastide begins	_	
	at Midnight	In the Kitchen:	
		Make Cinnamon Swirl Bread	
		-	
		Making and Preparing Home: Light the Tree	

Week 4 - Preparing the Way - Making and Preparing Heart & Home

A plan for preparing and readying the heart and home for the Christmas Feast

Christmas Carols

(as listed in Around the Year with the Trapp Family and Fr. Weiser's The Christmas Book)

Silent Night O Holy Night In Dulci Jubilo It Came Upon a Midnight Clear Resonet in Laudibus Joy to the World Shepherds, Up The First Hoel While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks O Little Town of Bethlehem From Heaven High, O Angels Come O Infant, God's Eternal Son God Rest You Merry Gentlemen Once in Royal David's City Sleep, Holy Babe Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming What Child Is This Hark, the Herald Angels Sing Angels We Have Heard On High Good King Wenceslaus (especially for the Feast of Stephen on the 26th)

Christmastide & the Octave of Christmas

	C /	HALV DIV AT ADUTA LITALI	DISTUDE DAME * CUMPETALLS CUMPES
Dec. 25	Sunday NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Making and Preparing Home: * Light the Manger Scene * Christmas music * Light the Christ Candle	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * The True Meaning of Christmas by Fulton Sheen * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, Christ is Born) ———————————————————————————————————
Dec. 26	Monday within the Octave St. Stephen	St. Stephen's "Box" Day Custom: In Medieval times, priests would empty and distribute the alms boxes on the day after Christmas Food for the Poor As a family, choose a gift for the poor on this Feast Sing: Good King Wenceslaus (looked out on the Feast of Stephen) In the Kitchen: Lebkuchen	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Stephen) * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#21, Stephen the First Martyr) * Good King Wenceslaus (who looked out on the Feast of Stephen) by Geraldine McCaughrean * Good King Wenceslaus by Jamichael Henterly
Dec. 27	Tuesday within the Octave St. John the Apostle	Tradition: St. John's Wine Tradition holds that this saint drank a cup of poisoned wine and survived h Blessing of wine h In the Kitchen: St. John's Wine (source Cooking For Christ) * 2 cups red wine * 2 whole cloves * 2 sticks cinnamon * 1 cardamon seed * 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg Boil spices in wine for about 5 minutes, strain and serve hot. Toast: "Drink the love of St. John" Christmas Tradition: Children with the name of "John" light the candles today	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. John) * Little Lives of the Great Saints by John O'Kane Murray (St. John)
Dec. 28	Wednesday within the Octave The Holy Innocents	Making and Preparing Home: Set small white candles (representing Holy Innocents) around the Christ candle tonight Prayer: Light of Christ, Let me be a tiny flame reflecting Thee	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Innocents) ———————————————————————————————————

Dec. 29	Thursday within the Octave		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS ————————————————————————————————————
Ü	St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury		
Dec. 30	Friday within the Octave		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS ————————————————————————————————————
	Feast of the Holy Family (new Calendar)		
Dec. 31	Saturday within the Octave Pope St. Sylvester I		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Family to the Temple)
	Sunday	HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 1	Circumcision of the Lord	Publicly recite the Veni, Creator (Handbook of Indulgence #61)	* <u>Mary, Mother of Jesus</u> by Mary Joslin & Alison Wisenfeld * <u>When Jesus Was a Little Boy</u> by Georgia Moore Eberling
Jan. 1	Mary, Mother of God (new calendar)	Luke 2:21 And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.	
	С	hristmastide - A Child is	Born to Us!

- Season of Christmas -

Jan. 2	Monday Most Holy Name of Jesus Sts. Basil & Gregory, Bishops & Doctors (new calendar)	Craft: Decorate the letters IHS in a most ornate way and place on the center of the table for the evening meal on the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. To be authentic to the story of St. Bernardin, print the letters in gold on a blue background. Surround with flowers IHS is from the Latin - Jesus Hominum Salvator and means - Jesus, Savior of the World Recite the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#29, Saved By a Loaf of Bread - St. Genevieve of Paris) * Around the Year With the Trapp Family by Maria Augusta Trapp (p. 78 - 79, The Story of the Holy Name of Jesus as made known by St. Bernardin of Siena)
Jan. 3	Tuesday Most Holy Name of Jesus (new calendar)		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 4	Wednesday		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS ————————————————————————————————————
Jan. 5	Thursday St. Telesphorus		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS

Epiphany Hymns

(as listed in Around the Year with the Trapp Family and Fr. Weiser's The Christmas Book)

We Three Kings of Orient Are Bethlehem of Noblest Cities As With Gladness Men of Old

Jan. 6	Friday THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY	Making and Preparing Home: * Move the Three Wise Men to the Creche * The Crib Enthroned - Transform the Creche into The Throne * Blessing of the Home with blessed chalk: 20 + C + M + B + 17 Prayer: Candles lit for prayers tonight	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Wise Men) * The Gifts of the Magi by Carolyn Vaughan
		<u>In the Kitchen:</u> Twelfth Night Cake	
	Saturday		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 7	Feria Our Lady on Saturdays		* Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Family in Egypt) * The Last Straw by Frederick H. Thury —
Jan. 8	Sunday Feast of the Holy Family Ephiphany (deferred to Sunday on the new calendar)	Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, who, by subjecting Yourself to Mary and Joseph consecrated family life with wonderful virtues, grant that, by their joint assistance, we may fashion our lives after the example of Your Holy Family, and obtain everlasting fellowship with it. Amen.	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Our Lady's Feasts by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 49 - 53 (The Feast of the Holy Family) * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Shepherds Come to Visit)
Jan. g	Monday Feria Baptism of the Lord (new calendar)		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Family in Bethlehem)
Jan. 10	Tuesday Feria		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * <u>Jesus, Son of Mary</u> by Fulton Sheen ———————————————————————————————————
Jan. 11	Wednesday Feria		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 12	Thursday Feria		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS ————————————————————————————————————
Jan. 13	Friday Baptism of Our Lord	The Christmas Season ends at the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS ————————————————————————————————————

Christmastide - A Child is Born to Us!				

The Juggler of Notre Dame

An excellent addition to family Advent reading comes from a poetic song believed to have been written in the 13th century by Gautier de Coincy, who enjoyed setting poetry to song to honor the Blessed Virgin. French storywriter Anatole France took the poems of Coincy and in1892 adapted them to story form in, Le Jongleur de Notre Dame, or, The Juggler of Notre Dame. The story has been retold many, many times, and some excellent children's picture books wonderfully portray the story of "the little juggler" who finds he has nothing else to give Our Lady for the great Feast of the Nativity except for his small and humble talent of juggling. In doing so, his humility and charity are rewarded with a tender miracle. It is a story not to be missed! It is thought (legend) that the original story by Anatole France was based on the life of either St. Hermann Joseph or St. Barnabas of Compiegne.

"It is no longer a figure there who smiles - it is the living Mother of Jesus. She leans far down and gathers that small king of the jugglers into Her arms and cradles him. He who has never known cradling knows a mother's arms at last, the close, everlasting blessing they give."
(Ruth Sawyer's adaptation, The Way of the Storyteller)

The following are excellent books and resources that are adaptations from Anatole France's original tale:

Movie.

Juggler of Our Lady (Terrytoons, 1958)

Books:

Juggler of Notre Dame by Mary Fidelis Todd (favorite!)

The Little Juggler by Barbara Cooney (favorite!)

The Clown of God by Tomie de Paola

The Way of the Storyteller (The Juggler of Notre Dame) by Ruth Sawyer, 1942

Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (Barnabas of Compiegne :: Barnabas the Juggler, St. Hermann Joseph)

Our Lady's Juggler: An Antique Legend by Alexander Woollcott (Reader's Digest WWII Compilation, Oct. 1941)

Sources used in compiling this document:

The Roman Calendar, 1962

The Christmas Book by Father Francis Weiser, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1952

The Holyday Book by Father Francis Weiser, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1956

The Twelve Days of Christmas by Elsa Chaney, The Liturgical Press, 1955

<u>Around the Year With the Trapp Family, Keeping the Feasts and Seasons of the Christian Year</u> by Maria Augusta Trapp, Pantheon Books, 1955

Cooking For Christ by Florence Berger, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 1949

Lives of the Saints For Every Day of the Year, edited by Hugo Hoever, 1955

Advent Prayers -- Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold For Catholic Children, Volume #22, Imprimatur, Francis Cardinal Spellman, 1956

A Listing of Advent and Christmas books for your consideration

Many of these books are out of print, but may be readily available through vendors like Abebooks or Amazon third party that specialize in out of print books. Several of the books on this list were listed by date according to Feast in the table above. This listing is a combination of picture books, saints compilations, and some books more appropriate for older children/adult reading (these are marked *)

Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham Twenty Miracles of St. Nicholas by Brenda Bryson Letters From Father Christmas by J.R.P. Tolkien * Little Lives of the Great Saints by John O'Kane Murray <u>The Christmas Story</u> by Jane Werner (1952, A Little Golden Book) Wonderworker: The True Story of How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus by Vincent Yzermans The Real Santa Claus by Marianna Mayer Saint Nicholas by Julie Stegmeyer The Donkey's Dream by Barbara Helen Berger The Miracle of St. Nicholas by Gloria Whelan The Huron Carol by St. John de Brebeuf The Animals' Christmas Eve by Gale Wiersum The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe by C. Lourdes Walsh Christmas In the Barn by Margaret Wise Brown Christmas and the Saints by Hertha Pauli Saints for Young People by Daughters of St. Paul Our Lady's Feasts by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy Christmas and the Saints by Hertha Pauli The Lady of Guadalupe by Tomie de Paola Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll An Advent Calendar by Tasha Tudor A Book of Christmas (Pop-Up Calendar) by Tasha Tudor The Ageless Story by Lauren Ford Stephen's Feast by Jean Richardson The Friendly Beasts by Tomie de Paola Legend of Old Befana by Tomie de Paola Merry Christmas, Strega Nona by Tomie de Paola An Orange for Frankie by Patricia Polacco Marta and the Manger Straw by Virginia Kroll Christmas Around the World by Mary D. Lankford Waiting For Christmas: A Story About the Advent Calendar by Kathleen The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski Good King Wenceslaus by Geraldine McCaughrean

Good King Wenceslaus by Jamichael Henterly

The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry The Christmas Knight by Jane Louise Curry My Christmas Book by Lee Mer The Little Match Girl by Hans Christian Anderson Holly & Ivy by Rumer Godden Christmas in the Trenches by John McCutcheon The Legend of the Poinsettia by Tomie de Paola The Christmas Flower by Joseph Henry Jackson The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado The Three Gifts of Christmas by Jennie Bishop Saint Francis and the Christmas Donkey by Robert Byrd Silent Night: The Story and Its Story by Margaret Hodges * The True St. Nicholas by William Bennett Nine Days to Christmas, A Story of Mexico by Marie Hall Ets & Aurora Labastida The Night of Las Posadas by Tomie de Paola The First Christmas Stocking by Elizabeth Winthrop The Little Fir Tree by Margaret Wise Brown St. Francis Celebrates Christmas by Mary Caswell Walsh The Living Nativity by David Haidle Silent Night by Susan Jeffers The Miracle of the Poinsettia: A Mexican Christmas Story by Joanne Oppenheim Christmas Around the World by Mary Lankford The Glorious Impossible by Madeleine L'Engle The Candymakers Gift: The Legend of the Candy Cane by David Haidle The Legend of the Candy Cane by Lori Walburg Hanna's Christmas by Melissa Peterson (Wiley) Lucia, Saint of Light by Katherine Bolger Hyde Kirsten's Surprise: A Christmas Story by Janet Shaw Lucia: Child of Light by Florence Ekstrand Jesus, Son of Mary by Fulton Sheen The Last Straw by Frederick H. Thury The Gifts of the Magi by Carolyn Vaughan Around the Year With the Trapp Family by Maria Augusta Trapp Mary, Mother of Jesus by Mary Joslin & Alison Wisenfeld

Books for Advent and Christmas

When Jesus Was a Little Boy by Georgia Moore Eberling