

# 2015/2016

"...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 teaching of the Church. Such pronouncements usually reach only a few and the more learned among the faithful;

# feasts reach them all

The Church's teaching affects the mind primarily; her feasts affect both mind and heart and have a salutary effect upon man's whole nature."

# In dulci Jubilo † Alpha es et 0

	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	425	Forbade cruel circus games on Christmas day
Bishop Lerpetuus 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	563	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	9th 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 Gustoms

- **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.

Kail 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 Losada (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 & Breparing 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 "Christhindl" (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 Trish 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 Dosadas — In other cultures referred to as The Golden Nights. In Spain and Mexico, the Losada is the period of nine days before Christmas from December 16 - 24. On the nights of Las Losadas, 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 Linata. 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 Llays Similar to the Losadas, this is a drama usually offered by children depicting the Holy Family's fruitless efforts to find shelter in Bethlehem.
- N**ovena to the Koly Child** Begin this novena nine days before Christmas. In Mexico and Spain, the prayers of the Novena to the Koly Child as well as special Advent carols (anticipating Kis Birth) are recited and sung. Afterward families process together as part of the Las Losadas procession, seeking admittance to shelter as the Koly Family did on the Koly Night, also being turned away...until the Koly 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 Gandle** — 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 Komes — This is traditionally done on the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the prayer recited:

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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 Koly Spirit: and may this blessing remain on the house and on its inhabitants. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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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:

20 + G + M + B + 16

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.

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"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 <u>Around the Year with the Trapp Family</u>, Fr. Weiser's <u>The Christmas Book, The St. Gregory Hymnal, The Adoremus Hymnal</u>

You Heavens, Dew Drop From Above
O-Come, O-Come, Emmanuel
Drop Your Dew, Ye Clouds of Heaven
O-Savior, Heaven's Lortal 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	<u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> ~ Hang Advent wreath	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Nov. 29	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 Free 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 th development of the Season of Advent within the Church.  * <u>The Christmas Story</u> by Jane Werner (1952, A Little Golden Book)
		Advent Brayers - 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. 30	Monday St. Andrew	Begin St. Andrew's Novena Recite the following prayer 16 times daily through Ghristmas: ——— Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING  * Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Andrew)
		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	Tuesday Feria	Making and Preparing Nome: 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
Dec. 2	Wednesday St. Bibiana		PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING  * <u>Saints for Young People</u> by Daughters of St. Paul (St. Bibiana)
Dec. 3	<b>Thursday</b> 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)
	Friday	Begin Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 4	<i>St. Barbara</i> St. John Damascene (new calendar)	. <u>Advent Gustom:</u> 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.	* <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. Barbara)  * <u>Wonderworker: The True Story of How St. Nicholas Became</u> <u>Santa Claus</u> by Vincent Yzermans

	Saturday	Advent custom:	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
	St. Sabbas	Write notes to the "dear child Jesus in heaven" to leave on 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		<u>Advent Custom:</u> Toast the Vigil of St. Nicholas with Bishop's Wine	
		<u>In the Kitchen - Bishop's Wine</u> Heat the following and serve hot! Bottle of red burgundy wine ¾ - 1 cup sugar ¼ teaspoon cinnamon grated orange wine	

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

A plan for preparing and readying the heart and home for the Christmas Feast
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	Sunday	<u>Adoent Lrayers - Second Week:</u> Let us pray.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 6	Second Sunday of Advent — St. Nicholas	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. <b>In the Kitchen:</b> Speculaas orSt. Nicholas cookies	* <u>The Real Santa Claus</u> by Marianna Mayer * <u>Saint Nicholas</u> by Julie Stegmeyer
		CCC DVD - Nicholas: the Boy Who Became Santa	
Dec. 7	<b>Monday</b> St. Ambrose	Making and Preparing Kome: Revisit the plan for cleaning, preparing and readying the home for the Christmas Feast.	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
	Tuesday	≈ Holy Day of Obligation ≈	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 8	- Holy Day - Feast of the Smmaculate Gonception	Graft:  - Our Lady, a Garden Enclosed - Using a small por, 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 Hitchen: Sweet Cinnamon Swirl Bread for Our Lady who, "gave forth sweet smell like cinnamon and aromatic balm"  CCC DVD - Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes	* 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)
	Wednesday	CCC DVD - Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 9	<i>Feria</i> St. Juan Diego (new Calendar)		* <u>The Donkey's Dream</u> by Barbara Helen Berger  * <u>Our Lady's Feasts</u> by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 79 - 84 (Ou Lady, Mediatrix of All Graces)
Dec. 10	Thursday Our Lady of Loretto (Tistorical)	<u>Our Lady of Loretto</u> Litany	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 11	Friday St. Damasus — Our Lady Queen	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)	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
	of the Angels (Historical)		
Dec. 12	<b>Saturday</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe	<b>In the Kitchen:</b> Mexican Hot Chocolate <u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> Llace roses under a statue of Our Lady in remembrance of her gift of roses to St. Juan Diego	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS  * The Lady of Guadalupe by Tomie de Paola  * Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Childre by the Maryknoll sisters (#13, The Story Told in the Gospels  * The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe by C. Lourdes Walsh

# Week 2 - Preparing the Way > Making and Preparing Heart & Home A plan for preparing and readying the heart and home for the Christmas Feast

	Sunday	<u>Making and Preparing Kome:</u> A Christmas Tree	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
	Third Sunday of Advent	<u>Advent Prayers - Third Week:</u> Let us pray.	* Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#13, Preparing for the Christ) * Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Lucy)
	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 minds.	* <u>Hanna's Christmas</u> by Melissa Peterson (Wiley)  * <u>Lucia, Saint of Light</u> by Katherine Bolger Hyde  * <u>Kirsten's Surprise: A Christmas Story</u> by Janet Shaw
	St. Lucy	Who livest and reignest forever: Amen. —	* <u>Lucia: Child of Light</u> by Florence Ekstrand ** <u>Heroines of Christ</u> by Joseph Husslein <u>The Maid that Conquered - Lucy</u> by Francis Anglim
Dec. 13		Advent Gustom: 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)	
		Saint Lucy - "light bringer" is a reflection of the great Light of the World which will shine on Christmas day. <u>Advent Gustom:</u> Christmas Wheat	
		Llant 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 <b>The Bread of Life</b> in the supernatural order) to place near the Christmas Crib.	
	Monday		PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 14	Feria St. John of the Cross (new Calendar)		
Dec. 15	Tuesday Feria		PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
	Wednesday	† Traditional day of fast and partial abstinence	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 16	Ember Wednesday	Bęgin Novena to the Koly Snfant Jesus Las Losadas Bęgins	* <u>Nine Days to Christmas, A Story of Mexico</u> by Marie Hall Ets & Aurora Labastida * <u>The Night of Las Posadas</u> by Tomie de Paola
	St. Eusebius of Vercelli	Las Dosadas Exegins (9 days before Christmas)	* Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Maryknoll sisters (#18, The Rich Man and Lazarus)

	Thursday	<u> O Antiphons Begin</u>	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 17	Feria	Crafi:  O Antiphon House ~  Construct a small framed house out of cardboard with 9 window flaps that open to reveal the 9 symbols of the O-Antiphons:  Sesource:  For O Antiphon prayer companion: http://maryellenb.typepad.com/files/o-antiphons-prayer-companionm2012.pdf (copyright Jennifer Gregory Miller, 2012)	* Prayer companion for O Antiphons
		© 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.	
	Friday	† Traditional day of fast and abstinence	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 18	Ember Friday	© O Adonai © O Lord and Ruler of the Rouse 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
	Saturday	† Traditional day of fast and partial abstinence	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 19	Ember Saturday	© Radix Jesse © O Radix Jesse of the 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.	* Prayer companion for O Antiphons

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

	Sunday	<u>Making and Preparing Kome:</u> Christmas <sub>i</sub> greenery out	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
	Fourth Sunday of Advent ——	<u>Advent Prayers - Fourth Week:</u> Let us pray. Stir up Thy might, we pray Thee, O-Lord, and come;	* Prayer companion for O Antiphons
Dec. 20		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.	
		® 0 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.	
	Monday	<u>Advent Custom:</u> St. Thomas' Day blessing of farms	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS  * Prayer companion for O Antiphons
Dec. 21	St. Thomas theApostle	<b>© Oriens ©</b> O <b>Dawn of the East</b> , brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of Justice: <b>come</b> , and enlighten them that sit in	*Story Library of the Saints by Joan Windham (St. Thomas)
		darkness and in the shadow of death.	
	Tuesday		PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING
Dec. 22	St. Francis Xavier Cabrini	<b>® O Rex Gentium ®</b> O <b>Sing of the Gentiles</b> and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: <b>come</b> , and deliver man, whom You formed out of the dust of the earth.	* Prayer companion for O Antiphons
	Wednesday		PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS
Dec. 23	Feria St. John Cantius (new Calendar)	<b>® O Emmanuel ®</b> O <b>Emmanuel</b> , God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: <b>come</b> to save us, O Lord our God.	*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
	Thursday	† Traditional day of Fast	Read the Gospel Account of the Nativity Luke 2:10 - 14
	The Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord		
Dec 24		Enthroning the Child < Baby Jesus is enthroned in the creche at midnight	
Dec. 24	Christmastide begins at Midnight	Soury Jesus is eniironea in the creene at manight <u>In the Kitchen:</u> 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 Garols

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

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 Reaven Righ, O Angels Come O Infant, God's Eternal Son God Rest You Merry Gentlemen Once in Royal Ďaviďs Ciţy Sleep, Holy Babe Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming What Child Is This Kark, the Herald Angels Sing Angels We Have Heard On High Good King Wenceslaus (especially for the Feast of Stephen on the 26th)

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	Friday	≈ Holy Day of Obligation ≈	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Making and Dreparing Home:  Light the Manger Scene  Christmas music  Light the Christ Candle	* 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	<b>Saturday</b> within the Octave <i>St. Stephen</i>	St. Stephen's "Box" Day Gustom:  In Medieval times, priests would empty and distribute the alms boxes on the day after Christmas  Food for the Loor  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	* 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

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	Sunday within the Octave  St. John the	<u>Tradition:</u> St. John's Wine Tradition holds that this saint drank a cup of poisoned wine and survived ~ Blessing of wine ~	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. 27	Apostle Feast of the Holy Family (new Calendar)	Source Solving For Christ)  St. John's Wine  (source Gooking 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 & minutes, strain and serve hot.  Foast: "Drink the love of St. John"	
		<u>Christmas Tradition:</u> Children with the name of "John" light the candles today.	
Dec. 28	<b>Monday</b> within the Octave The Holy Innocents	<u>Making and Preparing Kome:</u> Set small white candles (representing Koly Innocents) around Christ candle tonight <u>Prayer:</u> 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)
D 00	<b>Tuesday</b> within the Octave		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Dec. 29	St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury		
Dec. 30	Wednesday within the Octave		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Dec. 31	<b>Thursday</b> within the Octave <i>Lope St.</i> <i>Sylvester T</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)
	Friday		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 1	Gircumcision of the Lord	Publicly recite the Veni, Greator (Handbook of Indulgence #61)  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.	* <u>Mary, Mother of Jesus</u> by Mary Joslin & Alison Wisenfeld  * <u>When Jesus Was a Little Boy</u> by Georgia Moore Eberling

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Jan. 2	Saturday after the Octave <i>Feria</i>		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 3	Sunday  Most Holy Name of Jesus  St. Genevieve  St. Genevieve's Feast is Jan. 3, but is suppressed this year by the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. You could still remember St. Genevieve with a simple meal and resolution	Graft:  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 ————  St. Genevieve is the patroness of Laris, France - cook something French for dinner  St. Genevieve averted the scourge of Attila the Kun (5th century) by fasting and prayer - this day makes an excellent day to choose a vice or personal challenge to work on for the year upcoming - focusing on it through fasting and prayer:	* 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. 4	<b>Monday</b> after the Octave		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 5	<b>Tuesday</b> after the Octave St. Telesphorus		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS

Epiphany Hymns (as listed in <u>Around the Year with the Trapp Family</u> and Fr. Weiser's <u>The Christmas Book</u>)

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

	•		
	Wednesday	Making and Dreparing Home: Move the Three Wise Men to the Creche	PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
	The Feast of the Epiphany	<ul> <li>The Crib Enthroned - Transform the Creche into</li> <li>The Throne</li> <li>Blessing of the Home with blessed chalk:</li> </ul>	* <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Wise Men) * <u>The Gifts of the Magi</u> by Carolyn Vaughan
Jan. 6		20 †C † M † B † 16	
		<u> <b>Prayer:</b></u> Candles lit for prayers tonight	
		<u>In the Stitchen:</u> Tweffth Night Cake	
	Thursday		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 7	Feria		* <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Family in Egypt) * <u>The Last Straw</u> by Frederick H. Thury
	Friday		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 8	Feria		* <u>Jesus, Son of Mary</u> by Fulton Sheen ———————————————————————————————————
	Saturday		PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS
Jan. 9	Feria		* <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Family in Bethlehem)
	Our Lady on Saturdays		
	Sunday Feast of the Holy Family	Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, who, by subjecting Yourself to Mary and Joseph consecrated family life with wonderful virtues, grant that, by their joint	* <u>Our Lady's Feasts</u> by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 49 - 53 (The Feast of the Holy Family)
Jan. 10	. v	assistance, we may fashion our lives after the example of Your Noly Family, and obtain everlasting fellowship with it. Amen.	* <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Shepherds Come to Visit)
		End of the Christmas Season	

Christn	nastide throug	h Epiphany	A C	hild is Bori	n 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 in 1892 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)

(For a more thorough treatment of the history and many adaptations of The Juggler of Notre Dame, visit this thread posted on the 4Real Home Education Message Board - http://4real.thenetsmith.com/forum posts.asp?TID=37420.)

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

Around the Year With the Trapp Family, Keeping the Feasts and Seasons of the Christian Year 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

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## 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 The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry Twenty Miracles of St. Nicholas by Brenda Bryson The Christmas Knight by Jane Louise Curry My Christmas Book by Lee Mer Letters From Father Christmas by J.R.R. Tolkien Little Lives of the Great Saints by John O'Kane Murray The Little Match Girl by Hans Christian Anderson The Christmas Story by Jane Werner (1952, A Little Golden Book) Holly & Ivy by Rumer Godden Wonderworker: The True Story of How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus Christmas in the Trenches by John McCutcheon by Vincent Yzermans The Legend of the Poinsettia by Tomie de Paola The Real Santa Claus by Marianna Mayer The Christmas Flower by Joseph Henry Jackson Saint Nicholas by Julie Stegmeyer The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado The Donkey's Dream by Barbara Helen Berger The Three Gifts of Christmas by Jennie Bishop The Miracle of St. Nicholas by Gloria Whelan Saint Francis and the Christmas Donkey by Robert Byrd The Huron Carol by St. John de Brebeuf Silent Night: The Story and Its Story by Margaret Hodges The Animals' Christmas Eve by Gale Wiersum The True St. Nicholas by William Bennett Nine Days to Christmas, A Story of Mexico by Marie Hall Ets & Aurora The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe by C. Lourdes Walsh Christmas In the Barn by Margaret Wise Brown Labastida Christmas and the Saints by Hertha Pauli The Night of Las Posadas by Tomie de Paola Saints for Young People by Daughters of St. Paul The First Christmas Stocking by Elizabeth Winthrop Our Lady's Feasts by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy The Little Fir Tree by Margaret Wise Brown Christmas and the Saints by Hertha Pauli St. Francis Celebrates Christmas by Mary Caswell Walsh The Living Nativity by David Haidle The Lady of Guadalupe by Tomie de Paola Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children by the Silent Night by Susan Jeffers The Miracle of the Poinsettia: A Mexican Christmas Story by Joanne Maryknoll sisters <u>An Ådvent Calendar</u> by Tasha Tudor Oppenheim A Book of Christmas (Pop-Up Calendar) by Tasha Tudor Christmas Around the World by Mary Lankford The Ageless Story by Lauren Ford The Glorious Impossible by Madeleine L'Engle The Candymakers Gift: The Legend of the Candy Cane by David Haidle Stephen's Feast by Jean Richardson The Friendly Beasts by Tomie de Paola The Legend of the Candy Cane by Lori Walburg Legend of Old Befana by Tomie de Paola Hanna's Christmas by Melissa Peterson (Wiley) Merry Christmas, Strega Nona by Tomie de Paola Lucia, Saint of Light by Katherine Bolger Hyde An Orange for Frankie by Patricia Polacco Kirsten's Surprise: A Christmas Story by Janet Shaw Marta and the Manger Straw by Virginia Kroll Lucia: Child of Light by Florence Ekstrand Christmas Around the World by Mary D. Lankford Jesus, Son of Mary by Fulton Sheen Waiting For Christmas: A Story About the Advent Calendar by Kathleen The Last Straw by Frederick H. Thury The Gifts of the Magi by Carolyn Vaughan Bostrom The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski Around the Year With the Trapp Family by Maria Augusta Trapp Good King Wenceslaus by Geraldine McCaughrean Mary, Mother of Jesus by Mary Joslin & Alison Wisenfeld Good King Wenceslaus by Jamichael Henterly When Jesus Was a Little Boy by Georgia Moore Eberling

Books for Advent and Christmas