

2017 | 2018

PREPARING HEART & HOME



Advent
&
Christmas
PLANNER

we wait in joyful hope

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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 and preparing for the gift of 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 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! When we began celebrating the liturgical year as a family, I had a handful of holy cards, a liturgical year calendar, and a great desire to tap into the richness the Church offered through the rhythm of Her year. Begin wherever you are and let your family traditions grow, reminding yourself that the Heavenly Father has always been pleased with small and sincere efforts.

The ideas and resources provided here are for your consideration - not to overburden nor dismiss the paradoxical quiet richness within the season of Advent. Regardless of your faith - for we may all claim the rich inheritance and liturgical traditions offered to us in contemplating the Incarnation of Christ - we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior and King!

Waiting with you,
Jennifer Mackintosh, November 6, 2017

	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 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	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 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 *Around the Year With the Trapp Family*:

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 (usually white) 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 plenitude 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:

20 + G + M + B + 18

The End of the Season — The Liturgical season extends to the end of the *Octave of the Epiphany* - January 13.

Around the Year

“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](#), [The Christmas Book](#) (Father Francis Weiser), [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

Explanation of terms and symbols used on this planner

As a lay person, faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, I make no claim that this calendar is free from error. However, I have done my best to line up the two calendars of the Catholic Church (both the 1969 of the Ordinary Form and 1962 of the Extraordinary Form), and offer to you the many liturgical traditions and observances I have uncovered in my lifetime of reading and research. In doing so, it was necessary to abbreviate a few designations. I also think it may be of help to offer a brief explanation of a few noteworthy items on this planner.

EF	Extraordinary Form of the Mass - In the Catholic Church, there are two forms of the Mass within the Latin Rite: the Ordinary Form (Novus Ordo Mass in the vernacular), and the Extraordinary Form of the Mass (the Latin Mass). Both calendars are listed on this planner.
OF	Ordinary Form of the Mass - see note above
Feria	Feria days on the church's calendar simply designate a weekday in which there is no special feast designated.
<i>Traditional</i> day of fast and abstinence	No longer required under pain of sin, the days designated as "traditional day of fast and abstinence" on the calendar are listed because <i>traditionally</i> they were designated as such on the Church calendar. These days either precede a great feast (Solemnity/Holy Day) and allow one to reflect and prepare further for the Feast upcoming, or that designation might reflect an Ember Day (see note below).
Ember Days	In the 1962 liturgical calendar there are three days (Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday) set aside four times a year (at the beginning of each natural season of the year) for additional prayer and fasting to sanctify the seasons. Of all the liturgical observances on the Church's calendar, the Ember days tie into the natural seasons the most. The Ember Days were not retained with the calendar changes in 1969, therefore, if you follow the Ordinary Form calendar, you will not see these days listed (although it is fine, even encouraged, to continue to observe them!). The Ember Days are a beautiful way to pray for the seasonal harvest and plantings and the Ember Days are traditional days of fast and abstinence from meat.

In 2017, Advent is the shortest it can possibly be with the Vigil of the Nativity falling on the 4th Sunday of Advent. Thus, the 4th week of Advent consists of only one day: Sunday. I wanted to include a reminder for the St. Andrew's Novena so in this year's planner, I've included the 3 days prior to the season of Advent.

Preparing TO PREPARE

Nov. 30	Wednesday St. Andrew	<p><i>Begin St. Andrew's Novena</i> <i>Recite the following prayer 15 times daily through Christmas:</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * READING</p> <p>* <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. Andrew)</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Dec 1	Thursday Feria	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Dec. 2	Friday St. Bibiana	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * READING</p> <p>* <u>Saints for Young People</u> by Daughters of St. Paul (St. Bibiana)</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Advent † WEEK 1

<p>Dec 3</p>	<p>Sunday First Sunday of Advent St. Francis Xavier (EF)</p>	<p><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hang Advent wreath• 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 <p><u>Advent Prayers - First Week:</u> As you light the first week's Advent candle - 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.</p> <p><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> Consider a plan for cleaning, preparing and readying the home for the Christmas Feast. Advent is the perfect time to declutter and detach from material belongings that are no longer a blessing for your family.</p> <p>CCC DVD - Francis Xavier and the Samurai's Lost Treasure</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* <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)* <u>Little Lives of the Great Saints</u> by John O'Kane Murray (St. Francis Xavier) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec 4</p>	<p>Monday St. Barbara (EF) St. Peter Chrysologus (EF)</p>	<p><u>Begin Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe</u></p> <p><u>ADVENT CUSTOM</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.</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. Barbara)* <u>Wonderworker: The True Story of How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus</u> by Vincent Yzermans <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec 5</p>	<p>Tuesday St. Sabbas (EF)</p>	<p><u>ADVENT CUSTOM</u> Write notes to the "dear child Jesus in heaven" to leave on windowsills. St. Nicholas will take them when he visits tonight.</p> <p>Set out Stockings for St. Nicholas to fill after the children are in bed</p> <p><u>ADVENT CUSTOM</u> Toast the Vigil of St. Nicholas with Bishop's Wine</p> <p><u>In the Kitchen - Bishop's Wine</u> Heat the following and serve hot! Bottle of red burgundy wine $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 cup sugar $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cinnamon grated orange wine</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* <u>The Miracle of St. Nicholas</u> by Gloria Whelan* <u>Christmas and the Saints</u> by Hertha Pauli (St. Nicholas) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

<p>Dec. 6</p>	<p>Wednesday St. Nicholas</p>	<p><u>In the Kitchen:</u> Speculaas or St. Nicholas cookies</p> <p>See the website for resources and further ideas: St. Nicholas Center http://www.stnicholascenter.org/</p> <p>CCC DVD - Nicholas: the Boy Who Became Santa</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <p>* <u>The Real Santa Claus</u> by Marianna Mayer</p> <p>* <u>Saint Nicholas</u> by Julie Stegmeyer</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 7</p>	<p>Thursday St. Ambrose</p>	<p><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> Revisit the plan for cleaning, preparing, and readying the home for the Christmas Feast.</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 8</p>	<p>Friday HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p>	<p><u>Craft:</u> ~ Our Lady, a Garden Enclosed ~ Using a small pot, assemble a small garden for Our Lady (use natural materials, succulents, or dried flowers and moss). Place holy card or small statue of Our Lady in the center of the garden enclosed. (Symbolism: From the early years of Christianity, Mary was associated with the hortus conclusus (garden enclosed) from the Song of Songs, 4:12)</p> <p><u>In the Kitchen:</u> Sweet Cinnamon Swirl Bread or Cinnamon tea for Our Lady who, "gave forth sweet smell like cinnamon and aromatic balm"</p> <p>CCC DVD - Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <p>* <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. Bernadette) "I am the Immaculate Conception" - Our Lady to St. Bernadette</p> <p>* <u>Our Lady's Feasts</u> by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 3 - 9 (The Immaculate Conception)</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 9</p>	<p>Saturday Feria St. Juan Diego (OF)</p>	<p>CCC DVD - Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <p>* <u>The Donkey's Dream</u> by Barbara Helen Berger</p> <p>* <u>Our Lady's Feasts</u> by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 79 - 84 (Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Graces)</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Lady of Loretto (Historical)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Advent Prayers - Second Week:</u> As you light the second week's Advent candle - Let us pray.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Litany of Our Lady of Loretto</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Lady Queen of the Angels (Historical)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Damasus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Our Lady Queen of the Angels</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>In the Kitchen:</u> Mexican Hot Chocolate</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> Place roses under a statue of Our Lady in remembrance of her gift of roses to St. Juan Diego</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <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, <u>The Story Told in the Gospels</u>) * <u>The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe</u> by C. Lourdes Walsh <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Lucy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> Set out candles and light them as St. Lucy brought light in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Advent Custom:</u> 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)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saint Lucy - "light bringer" is a reflection of the great Light of the World which will shine on Christmas day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Advent Custom:</u> Christmas Wheat</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. Lucy) * <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 * <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 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

<p>Dec. 14</p>	<p>Thursday St. John of the Cross (OF)</p>	<p><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> Revisit the plan for cleaning, preparing, and readying the home for the Christmas Feast.</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS * <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#18, <u>The Rich Man and Lazarus</u>)</p> <p>_____ _____</p>
<p>Dec. 15</p>	<p>Friday Feria</p>	<p><u>Craft:</u> <u>O' Antiphon House</u> In preparation for the O Antiphons (which begin on Dec. 17), construct a small framed house out of cardboard with 9 window flaps that open to reveal the 9 symbols of the O' Antiphons. Sometimes craft stores (Hobby Lobby) have small framed houses like this available for purchase.</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS</p> <p>_____ _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Dec. 16</p>	<p>Saturday St. Eusebius (EF)</p>	<p>Begin Novena to the Holy Infant Jesus <u>Las Posadas Begins</u> (9 days before Christmas)</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS <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</p> <p>_____</p>

Week 2 - Preparing the Way - Making and Preparing Heart & Home

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

Dec. 22	Friday Ember Friday (EF)	Traditional day of fast and abstinence <i>O Rex Gentium</i> <i>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.</i>	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT READING * Prayer companion for O Antiphons _____ _____
Dec. 23	Saturday Ember Saturday (EF) St. John Cantius (OF)	Traditional day of fast and partial abstinence <i>O Emmanuel</i> <i>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.</i>	PICTURE BOOK * ADVENT SAINTS * Prayer Companion for O Antiphons * <i>Our Lady's Feasts</i> by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 39 - 45 (The Nativity of Christ) * <i>Mary, Mother of Jesus</i> by Tomie de Paola _____ _____

Week 3 - Preparing the Way - Making and Preparing Heart & Home

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

Christmas HYMNS

as listed in Around the Year with the Trapp Family, The Christmas Book (Father Francis Weiser)

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

<p>Dec. 25</p>	<p>Monday</p> <p>NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</p> <p><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Light the Manger Scene * Christmas music * Light the Christ Candle 	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>The True Meaning of Christmas</u> by Fulton Sheen * <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, Christ is Born) <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 26</p>	<p>Tuesday within the Octave of Christmas</p> <p>St. Stephen</p>	<p><u>St. Stephen's "Box" Day Custom:</u> In Medieval times, priests would empty and distribute the alms boxes on the day after Christmas</p> <p><u>Food for the Poor</u> As a family, choose a gift for the poor on this Feast</p> <p><u>Sing:</u> Good King Wenceslaus (looked out on the Feast of Stephen)</p> <p><u>In the Kitchen:</u> Lebkuchen</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. Stephen) * <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#21, Stephen the First Martyr) * <u>Good King Wenceslaus</u> by Geraldine McCaughrean * <u>Good King Wenceslaus</u> by Jamichael Henterly <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 27</p>	<p>Wednesday within the Octave of Christmas</p> <p>St. John the Apostle</p>	<p><u>Tradition:</u> St. John's Wine</p> <p>Tradition holds that this saint drank a cup of poisoned wine and survived</p> <p>- Blessing of wine -</p> <p><u>In the Kitchen:</u> St. John's Wine (source <u>Cooking For Christ</u>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2 cups red wine * 2 whole cloves * 2 sticks cinnamon * 1 cardamon seed * 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg <p>Boil spices in wine for about 15 minutes, strain and serve hot.</p> <p>Toast: "Drink the love of St. John"</p> <p><u>Christmas Tradition:</u> Children with the name of "John" light the candles today.</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>Story Library of the Saints</u> by Joan Windham (St. John) * <u>Little Lives of the Great Saints</u> by John O'Kane Murray (St. John) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 28</p>	<p>Thursday within the Octave of Christmas</p> <p>The Holy Innocents</p>	<p><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> Set small white candles (representing Holy Innocents) around the Christ candle tonight</p> <p><u>Prayer:</u> Light of Christ, Let me be a tiny flame reflecting Thee</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Innocents) <hr/> <hr/>

<p>Dec. 29</p>	<p>Friday within the Octave of Christmas</p> <p>St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 30</p>	<p>Saturday within the Octave of Christmas</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Dec. 31</p>	<p>Sunday within the Octave of Christmas</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <p>* <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Family to the Temple)</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 1</p>	<p>Monday within the Octave of Christmas</p> <p>Circumcision of the Lord (EF)</p> <p>Mary, Mother of God (OF)</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</p> <p>Publicly recite the Veni, Creator (Handbook of Indulgence #61)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <p>* <u>Mary, Mother of Jesus</u> by Mary Joslin & Alison Wisenfeld * <u>When Jesus Was a Little Boy</u> by Georgia Moore Eberling</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Christmastide - A Child is Born to Us!

Season of Christmas

Jan. 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday</p> <p>Most Holy Name of Jesus (EF)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sts. Basil & Gregory, Bishops & Doctors (OF)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Craft:</u> Using craft items, decorate the letters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I H S</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">I H S is from the Latin - Jesus Hominum Salvator and means - Jesus, Savior of the World</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recite the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <p>* <i>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)</i></p> <p>* <i>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)</i></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Jan. 3	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p>Most Holy Name of Jesus (OF)</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Jan. 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday</p> <p>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (OF)</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Jan. 5	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <p>St. Telesphorus (EF)</p> <p>St. John Neumann (OF)</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Epiphany HYMNS

as listed in [Around the Year with the Trapp Family, The Christmas Book](#) (Father Francis Weiser)

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

<p>Jan. 6</p>	<p>Saturday THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (EF) Saturday before the Epiphany (OF)</p>	<p><u>Making and Preparing Home:</u> * 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 + 18 <u>Prayer:</u> Candles lit for prayers tonight <u>In the Kitchen:</u> Twelfth Night Cake</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * <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 * <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Shepherds Come to Visit)</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 7</p>	<p>Sunday Feast of the Holy Family (EF) EPIPHANY (OF)</p>	<p><u>Prayer:</u> 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.</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * <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</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 8</p>	<p>Monday Feria (EF) Baptism of the Lord (OF)</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * <u>Our Lady's Feasts</u> by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, p. 49 - 53 (The Feast of the Holy Family)</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 9</p>	<p>Tuesday Feria</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * <u>Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold for Catholic Children</u> by the Maryknoll sisters (#14, The Holy Family in Bethlehem)</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 10</p>	<p>Wednesday Feria</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS * <u>Jesus, Son of Mary</u> by Fulton Sheen</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 11</p>	<p>Thursday</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 12</p>	<p>Friday</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Jan. 13</p>	<p>Saturday Baptism of Our Lord (EF) St. Hilary (OF)</p>	<p>The Christmas Season ends at the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord</p>	<p>PICTURE BOOK * CHRISTMAS SAINTS</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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 Compiègne.

"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 Compiègne :: 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 (For the Extraordinary Form Liturgical Calendar)

The General Roman Calendar, promulgated 1969, (For the Ordinary Form Liturgical Calendar)

[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

All Advent Prayers taken from [Crusade: The Story of the Bible Retold For Catholic Children](#), Volume #22,

Imprimatur, Francis Cardinal Spellman, 1956

Advent and Christmas Books

Some 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 *). This is by no means an exhaustive list. It can only claim to be a beginning...

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

Books for Advent and Christmas