

2017 Advent Calendar

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
December 3
**"BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!"
(Mk 13:33)**

Today take time to reflect on how you want to live Advent this year, to be watchful and alert with all of creation.

4
**SPEARS INTO PRUNING
HOOKS**

"They shall beat their... spears into pruning hooks." (Is 2:4) Today we pray for farmers around the world and those now unable to cultivate the land due to our changing climate.

5
**THE WOLF WITH
THE LAMB**

"The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid" (Is 11:6). How might these images inspire peace and forgiveness in your life?

6
**LOAVES & FISHES:
ABUNDANCE**

The Gospel of loaves and fishes reminds us we are called to share the abundance of God's love. How might you feed someone today by donating to a local charity addressing hunger?

7
GREEN YOUR ADVENT

Commit to make one change this year to "green" your Christmas: try a vegetarian recipe, or seek sustainable gifts. See more ideas here: <http://bit.ly/GCCM-GreenXmas17>

8
**SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Like Mary, how might we set aside our personal plans for God's Love to be present? Do an unexpected kind deed today for a stranger.

9
PONDER THE STARS

"The Lord tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name." (Ps 147). Tonight look at the stars and reflect on how they and all of creation are beloved by God.

10
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs" (Is 40:11). God holds tenderly the animals of land, sea, and sky. Let us do the same today.

11
**THIRSTY GROUND,
SPRINGS OF WATER**

"The thirsty ground springs of water." (Is 35:7) The Earth rejoices in Jesus' birth and its water cleanses the Holy Child and Mother in the stable. Offer a prayer for life-giving water today.

12
**OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE**

"A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars..." (Rv 12:1) The Cosmic Christ dwells in all of Creation.

13
EAGLES' WINGS

"They that hope in the LORD will soar as with eagles' wings." (Is 40:31) Offer a prayer of hope for communities impacted by natural disasters.

14
CLOUDS RAIN DOWN

Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior. (Is 45:8) God looked to the natural world as partner in Jesus' birth. Is my relationship with the natural world a mutually life-giving partnership?

15
TREES OF LIFE

"Blessed is the one who is like a tree planted near running water (Ps 1:3)." We reflect on the importance of trees in our lives, for air, for keeping our climate balanced, for beauty. Pray today for those fighting against deforestation.

16
MAKING SPACE

Advent is a time of making space for Christ's birth in our lives. Can you let go of one personal item today to reflect how you are making way for Jesus?

17
GAUDATE SUNDAY

On Gaudate Sunday, we celebrate with joy the coming of Christ. Can you extend some Advent joy to someone who might be struggling at this time?

18
**INTERNATIONAL
MIGRANTS DAY**

We pray for those in migration, which Pope Francis says "recalls that of baby Jesus, who at the time of his birth could not find a place to stay when he was born in Bethlehem."

19
WAITING WITH CREATION

Let us reflect on the many ways creation helps us to celebrate Advent: from Christmas trees and Advent wreaths to twinkling stars and animals carefully placed in nativity scenes.

20
THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S

We praise you for teaching us that the earth and its fullness belong to you and we thank you for giving us the most urgent of tasks: to protect, heal and honor your gift of Creation.

21
THE VISITATION

We rejoice with Mary, Queen of Creation! Let us experience the joy of the Cosmic Christ in our own bodies and recognize Christ being revealed in every rock, cloud, human and gust of wind today.

22
MAGNIFICAT

Join Mary in praying the Magnificat today in praising the Lord who "has filled the hungry with good things." (Luke 1:53) Watch this YouTube video: https://youtu.be/6_ixWJo-7k

23
GIFTS OF THE EARTH

The gifts of the Wise Men were of the earth: gold forged within Earth's crust, frankincense from desert trees and myrrh distilled from tree sap. Help us purify our lifestyles this Christmas so that we can live justly with the gifts of Creation.

24
CHRISTMAS EVE

"The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you." (2 Sam 7:12) We give thanks for our common home and pray that we might be a dwelling place of your love, bringing hope to every part of Creation this Christmas.

25
**CHRISTMAS!
LET US REJOICE!**

We thank and praise you Jesus for coming to heal the whole creation! May we more fully become agents of your love for "the heavens be glad, Earth rejoice, seas resound and forests exult" (Ps 96:11).

"Blessed are all who wait for the Lord" (Ps 147). This season, we invite you to pray the Joy of Advent to include all of Creation. The Nativity story is resplendent with images of the human and natural world coming into communion to receive the birth of Jesus. We can imagine the stars illuminating the night sky, the animals keeping the Holy Family protected and warm, and the precious gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

For the we journey of these next 23 days, we offer reflections based on the daily Scripture readings. Pope Francis invites us to hear the cry of the Earth. We extend that invitation this season to hear the Earth rejoice in the coming of the Savior of All.

Laudato Si'
JOY
ADVENT 2017