

Advent Spiritual Calendar - December 2017

**Advent connects us spiritually with God's whole plan of redemption through
Jesus Christ**

Advent derives from the Latin *Adventus* or meaning 'arrival'

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Prayer, Fasting, and Good Works Advent is a season of discernment and the value of cultivating patience.	2 Almsgiving* Good deeds, generosity, and acts of mercy or kindness
3 First Sunday of Advent Advent Wreath Four candles (three purple and one rose) with one candle lit each week and special prayers are said. Ask for God's special guidance throughout the season.	4 Devotional Reading Spiritually prepare yourself for Christmas, the birth of the King of Kings.	5 Advent Penance Service 7 pm @ Saint Peter CC repenting of our sins, renouncing our wrong choices, and emptying ourselves of ourselves so that He can come and take up His Residence within us.	6 St. Nicholas Donate like-new toys and books to needy families. Don't forget our furry friends! Donate sheets, blankets, or food to a local animal shelter	7 Daily Prayer Make a routine of praying. Set aside time to pray the Rosary (comepraytherosary.com) Strive to meditate on the readings from the Mass.	8 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Holy Day of Obligation I will honor Mary by being cheerful today. Pray the Angelus; thanking God for Mary's "Yes."	9 Words of thanks Send a card or letter to a teacher, mentor, or a soldier and tell them how much you appreciate them and their calling.
10 Second Sunday of Advent Special Prayers Time and Talent Strive to commit to giving one hour a month to our parish ministries.**	11 Encouragement Let a young person know just how proud you are of him or her. Give three people a compliment today.	12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE "Patroness of all the Americas." Grant to our homes the grace of love and respect for life.	13 St. Lucy "...whatever you give away at death for the Lord's sake you give because you cannot take it with you. Give now to the true Savior, while you are healthy, whatever you intended to give away at your death."	14 Stewardship of Time Strive to volunteer at Saint Peter Catholic School cafeteria or another need for one hour a month. Students would love to visit with you!	15 Read Sacred Scripture Reflect - allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Donate a few books to a library or children's hospital.	16 Nativity Prepare the manger; a symbol of our hearts. Delay putting Christmas decorations out in preparation of the feast.
17 Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. O Wisdom***	18 Giving Thanks Thank your priests for bringing Christ himself in our lives. O Lord and Ruler***	19 Act of Kindness Offer to run an errand or give a helping hand to an elderly neighbor or someone in need. O Root of Jesse***	20 Sharing Make a casserole and bring it to your local firehouse or police station, or give cookies to an elderly or homebound neighbor. O Key of David***	21 Stewardship Resolve to give more of my Time, Talent and Treasure to my parish. O Rising Dawn***	22 Christmas Lights View Christmas lights in your area. Talk about Jesus, the light of the world. Come home and watch your favorite Christmas-themed movie with your family. O King of the Nations***	23 Rejoice with Song Go caroling with family and friends. Prepare traditional foods for potluck to celebrate friendship. Learn a new hymn (or two!) O Emmanuel!***
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Welcome Jesus with great love and offer him your acts of kindness during this Advent season.	25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) Holy Day of Obligation	26 Relax, Reflect, Thanks God is constantly showering us in his divinity - take a moment to thank Him	In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, please call to mind the fifth precept " <i>You shall help provide for the needs of the Church.</i> " This means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability. In this season of giving, please consider an end-of-the-year, tax-deductible donation to our parish and/or our parish school, Saint Peter.			
<p>*Almsgiving: gifts for disadvantage children/adults, volunteer at a nursing home or soup kitchen</p> <p>**Usher, Lector, Cantor, St. Vincent de Paul (see website for full list)</p> <p>*** The "O" Antiphons are the verses for the ancient hymn <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>. The first letter of the Messianic titles: Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia—spell out Latin words ERO CRAS, meaning, "<i>Tomorrow, I will come.</i>"</p>						

