

Celebrating Advent

Greetings Friends and Family,

It is my desire that you will use this Advent Calendar to enrich your understanding of Christmas and draw near to our God in anticipation. I created this calendar a few years back when Patrick was deployed in hopes of enriching our future Christmas Seasons together. Advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming.” It is a time we set aside to recognize, anticipate, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We celebrate both the fulfillment of prophecy in the coming of Christ as Savior and the future fulfillment of Christ’s return. It is truly the “magic” of Christmas.

This advent calendar was born out of a desire to streamline our Christmas activities and scripture readings in an effort to be more intentional during the season of Advent. It includes the Old Testament prophecies to give the participant a complete understanding of the miracle of Christ’s arrival. The short readings begin with the Law and God’s promise to Abraham to set the stage for the need of Christ. The readings progress through the story of Christ’s coming to Earth and circle around to end with the fulfillment of the Law through Christ.

Our family took our regular Christmas traditions and incorporated them into each day of the calendar. For example, every year we like to go look at Christmas lights. We placed driving around to look at Christmas lights in our jammies/ star gazing on Day 21 when the Magi followed the star to find Jesus. The activities do not need to align perfectly but we found that incorporating our traditional activities/movies/baking/holiday parties with our readings made Advent a special time for our family. Aligning our family activities with our scripture readings made them come to life. I’ll always remember the richness of worshipping in church on Day 15 after reading about the multitude of angels praising God.

Traditionally, Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year. You may also chose to begin Advent on December 1st which will make this calendar end on Christmas Day. I hope you have fun filling in the blanks and personalizing this calendar for your family. You can make a physical calendar in any arrangement you’d like (small garland, bags, envelopes). If you find ways to improve upon this calendar, please email your suggestions so changes can be made for next year’s calendar.

Blessings this Advent Season,
Ashley Chapman
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	Date	Title	Summary	Scripture	Item/Activity
1		God's Promise to Abraham	"... through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed."	Genesis 22:15-18	
2		The Law	The 10 Commandments	Exodus 20: 1-17	
3		Justification through Faith	Ties in Abraham, the 10 commandments, and the justification through faith.	Romans 3: 21-31 Romans 4:13-25	
4		Prophet Isaiah	Prophecy of the coming Christ	Isaiah 7:14 Isaiah 9:2-7	
5		Prophet Micah	Prophecy of peace	Micah 5:2-4	
6		The Branch from Jesse	"... a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse." Animals/children have no fear	Isaiah 11:1-9	
7		Angel Gabriel appears to Mary	The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary	Luke 1:26-38	
8		Mary visits Elizabeth	Mary visits Elizabeth and Elizabeth's baby "leaped for joy."	Luke 1:39-45	

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9		The Engagement Conflict	Joseph was unsure of how to proceed with his engagement to Mary	Matthew 1:18-19	
10		The prophecy	An Angel appears to Joseph and explains the fulfillment of the prophecy of Christ	Matthew 1: 20-23	
11		The Wedding/ Mary's Song	Joseph takes Mary as his wife/ Mary sings to the Lord in praise	Matthew 1: 24-25 Luke 1:46 – 55	
12		Roman Census	Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem for the Roman Census	Luke 2:1-5	
13		Jesus is born!	Jesus is born in a manger, Happy Birthday Jesus	Luke 2:6-7	
14		The Shepherds	An angel appeared to the shepherds and told of Christ's birth	Luke 2:8-12	
15		Multitude of Angels	A company of heavenly hosts praised God	Luke 2: 13-14	
16		The Shepherds share the Good News	The shepherds rejoiced with Joseph and Mary and then spread the word about all they had seen and heard	Luke 2: 15-18 Luke 2:20	

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17		Mary's Treasure	Mary treasured all of these things in her heart	Luke 2:19	
18		Jesus/Joshua Sacrifice of Doves	Name Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means "The Lord Saves."	Luke 2:21-24	
19		Simeon and Anna	Simeon and Anna praise Jesus	Luke 2:25-38	
20		King of Kings	Herod sent the Magi to find the "King of the Jews"	Matthew 2:1-8	
21		Star	The Magi followed the star to find Jesus.	Matthew 2:9-10	
22		Gifts to Jesus	They bowed down to worship Jesus and presented gifts. They did not return to Herod.	Matthew 2:11-12	
23		The Escape to Egypt	Joseph took Jesus to Egypt	Matthew 2:13-18	
24		Return to Nazareth, Jesus Grows	Joseph takes Jesus to Nazareth where he grows in wisdom and strength	Matthew 2:19-23 Luke 2:39-40	
25		Fulfillment of the Law through Christ	Life through Christ Jesus	Romans 8:1-4	

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Supplies/Items to Make/Collect/Buy

Notes and Observations

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Activity Ideas

Please personalize these ideas to make them work for your family or add your own! This list is merely to trigger your creativity. Don't feel pressured to fill each day with too much; leave a little room for spontaneity, rest, and awe. Also, don't forget to factor in pre-existing events/commitments as required. Enjoy!

1. Listen to O Come All Ye Faithful
2. New Christmas Jammies
3. Make hot chocolate and stir with a candy cane
4. Apple Cider
5. Silent Night
6. Sing a Christmas jingle at the top of your lungs
7. Hum a Christmas tune
8. Video chat with family
9. Make/Eat Puppy chow
10. Eat a candy cane
11. Watch a favorite Christmas Movie and make popcorn
 - (What a wonderful Life, Elf, White Christmas, How the Grinch stole Christmas, Chevy Chase's Christmas Vacation, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman)
12. Run around the house flying like a reindeer
13. Go on a hunt for Christmas Lights (maybe even have a Christmas light scavenger hunt)
14. Random Act of Kindness (Do something for someone today that they are not expecting
15. Read a Christmas themed story
16. Make an ornament or decoration
17. Visit Santa Claus
18. Bake Christmas Cookies
19. Shop for a gift for children less fortunate
20. Read the Nativity story
21. Unwrap one present early
22. Have breakfast in bed
23. Write a letter to Santa
24. Put on your Christmas hat- we are delivering presents
25. Have a candlelit dinner
26. A special Christmas treat
27. Permission to stay up late. Bedtime: _____
28. Hot chocolate made especially for you!
29. Today we are going to pick out the Christmas Tree.
30. Animals deserve a special treat too! Today we'll feed the ducks
31. Take treats to a local animal shelter
32. Christmas coloring book
33. Let's make a snowman
34. Today we decorate the Christmas tree
35. Let's go sliding or ice skating
36. Make a Christmas card for someone in your community
37. Make a birthday cake for Jesus
38. Go Christmas caroling

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39. Decorate the windows in your room/ house
40. Go to the library for some new Christmas stories
41. Make dinner for friends
42. Go to a friend's house for dinner
43. Have a sleepover
44. Dress up and put on a Christmas Play
45. Listen to fun Christmas music
46. It's family game night!
47. A new pair of Christmas socks!
48. Bundle up! It's time to go star gazing (sky guide app)
49. Make a gingerbread house
50. Learn about holidays in another culture
51. Pick out food to donate to the food bank
52. Listen to fun Christmas music
53. Sleep in a tent in the living room
54. Your special Christmas pillowcase
55. Build a Christmas chain
56. Take a family Christmas Photo
57. Write a letter to Santa
58. Make paper snowflakes
59. Go to a Christmas party
60. Drive around and look at Christmas lights in our jammies
61. Visit Santa
62. Eat dinner on the floor by the Christmas tree
63. Make a Christmas drawing
64. Address & Stamp Christmas Cards
65. Eat snow
66. Go to the Post Office & Mail cards
67. Bring the postman cookies
68. Make cookies for Santa and reindeer food
69. Have a Christmas music dance party
70. Go ice skating
71. String popcorn for the Christmas tree
72. Make homemade cards for grandparents
73. Give mom & dad a hug
74. Give your siblings a hug
75. Take homemade treats to our special friends
76. Build a train track
77. Call family/friend and wish them a Merry Christmas
78. Put on a puppet show
79. Visit a Christmas tree in town
80. Look back at old family Christmas photos
81. Leave cookies and milk out for Santa
82. Make a Gingerbread House
83. Decorate a Gingerbread House
84. Help wrap Christmas presents
85. Make & bake Christmas cookies
86. Send a Christmas card to your teacher
87. Wear ugly Christmas sweaters
88. Wear a Santa hat
89. Elf on the shelf
90. Drink Eggnog
91. Eat/Make/Give Fruitcake
92. Go on a sleigh ride
93. Go ice skating
94. Go to the movies
95. Visit needy children
96. Snowball fight
97. Build a snow fort
98. Make snow cones
99. Candy cane shaped Pizza with pepperoni stripe
100. Act out the Nativity Story

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