

# FAMILY ROSARY

## *Family Advent & Christmas Calendar*

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***Each year, amid the busyness of our Christmas preparations, the Advent season offers an opportunity to open our hearts and homes to the presence of God. How do we prepare our families to welcome Jesus more intentionally at Christmas?***

Most importantly, we welcome Jesus by loving Him and each other as He loves us. The Christmas story is the love story between God and humanity, in which God pours Himself out in love by taking on a human nature—by becoming a little baby! Like Mary and Joseph, we prepare for Jesus by practicing this type of self-giving love in our homes. We respect and cherish each other; we serve each other even when it is difficult or inconvenient; and we strive to lead each other closer to God.

Setting aside time for family prayer strengthens family love and allows us to listen to God's voice as He invites us to deeper relationship with Himself. If we do this, our Christmas celebrations will be filled with His light and peace!

### THE POWER OF ONE YES



In order to help you journey through the Advent and Christmas seasons, we have created a calendar with short, simple activities for the whole family to do together. There are moments of prayer, suggestions for family conversations and service, and opportunities for creativity and fun.

Let us seek the Light of Christ during our Advent journey and let us bear this light to others, remembering the power of Mary's one "yes."

Family Rosary is here to support your family as you journey together in prayer during the Advent and Christmas seasons. May God continue to bless you and your family.



**Family Rosary**  
HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES



NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3

**Sunday, November 27**  
*First Sunday of Advent*

If you haven't already, create an **Advent wreath** with your family. It can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. Then, light the first purple candle and pray an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" together.

**Monday, November 28**

Ask each family member to choose a fruit of the Holy Spirit—such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, or gentleness—to practice more intentionally during Advent.

**Tuesday, November 29**  
*Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle*

Think of some ways you can incorporate prayer into your Advent season, such as prayer before meals, weekly Rosary, or nightly prayer before the Nativity scene.

**Wednesday, November 30**

Today is the Feast of St. Andrew, who was a fisherman before he followed Jesus. Read the Bible story of the call of St. Andrew, **Matthew 4:18-22**. Then, discuss together what it could have been like for St. Andrew to give up everything to follow Jesus.

**Thursday, December 1**

At a meal with your family, discuss the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Ask everyone to share how they think Mary and Joseph must have felt during this exciting and difficult trip. (For reference, read **Luke 2:1-7**)

**Friday, December 2**

Purchase or make a gift that you can donate to a children's charity or give your gift directly to someone in need.

**Saturday, December 3**  
*Feast of Saint Francis Xavier*

Today is the feast of St. Francis Xavier, a missionary. Pray for people who do not know about Jesus today.

*Please note: We suggest preparing your family Advent wreath before the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, so that you are ready to light it when Advent begins. You can find instructions and tips for making your own Advent wreath at [FamilyRosary.org](http://FamilyRosary.org).*

*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus... Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

- Luke 1:30-31; 38a



## THE POWER OF ONE YES



**Sunday, December 4**  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

Today, light two purple candles of your Advent wreath. Visit **CatholicMom.com's Sunday Gospel Activities** including coloring pages, lesson plans, Mass worksheets, puzzles, and more, to help you celebrate each Sunday.

**Monday, December 5**

Say a "**Hail Mary**" for someone who needs God's help today.

**Tuesday, December 6**  
*Feast of Saint Nicholas*

Ask each member of your family to write individual "thank you notes" to each person in the family. Then, share the notes with each other during dinner or another family meal.

**Wednesday, December 7**

Although prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are associated with the season of Lent, we also engage in these practices throughout the year and especially during the season of Advent. As a family, choose a favorite food to give up for the remainder of Advent and donate the money to a charity.

**Thursday, December 8**  
*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

Today is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, a Holy Day of Obligation. Attend Mass today in honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception.

**Friday, December 9**  
*Feast of Saint Juan Diego*

Draw a picture of Mary as she appeared to Saint Juan Diego. Hint: Look up a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe or download the coloring page. You may also enjoy reading the exciting account of **St. Juan Diego's encounter with Our Lady** in 1531.

**Saturday, December 10**

It's always a good idea to go to Confession at least once during Advent. Find out when Confession is offered at your parish and go as a family. (With children too young to receive the sacrament, take a moment to talk about the importance of forgiving and asking for forgiveness.) Many good examinations of conscience are available online to help you prepare for Confession, some of which are geared to different ages and vocations.



*"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

*When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife"*

- Matthew 1:20b-21; 24

THE POWER OF ONE YES



**Sunday, December 11**  
*Third Sunday of Advent*

After you light two purple candles and one rose candle on your Advent wreath, pray a decade of the Rosary with your family, meditating on the mystery of the Annunciation. Visit **FamilyRosary.org** to learn how to pray a decade of the Rosary.

**Monday, December 12**

Say a prayer together asking Mary to help you prepare to welcome Jesus, her Son, into your hearts.

**Tuesday, December 13**  
*Feast of Saint Lucy*

Take a walk or drive around your neighborhood with your family to enjoy the Christmas lights and decorations.

**Wednesday, December 14**

Offer to help someone in your family with a chore today.

**Thursday, December 15**

Do something kind for a neighbor or friend today.

**Friday, December 16**

Say a "Hail Mary" and ask our Blessed Mother to guide the Church today.

**Saturday, December 17**

Begin praying the "**O Antiphons**" continue each day until Christmas Eve. One idea is to read one aloud each day after family dinner.



*“And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”  
And immediately they left their nets and followed him”*

- Mark 1:17-18



THE POWER OF ONE YES

**Sunday, December 18**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

After you light all four candles of your Advent wreath, read the story of the Annunciation **Luke 1:26-38** with your family.

**Monday, December 19**

At a meal with your family, share examples of how you can say “yes” to God together more often.

**Tuesday, December 20**

Resolve to start each day with a short prayer — either alone or as a family.

**Wednesday, December 21**

Christmas is almost here! Together, make sure your rooms are neat and clean. Most of all, we want our hearts to be clean and ready to welcome Jesus as Mary did.

**Thursday, December 22**

Sing “**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!**” as a family. ★

**Friday, December 23**

Make a card for your pastor wishing him a merry Christmas and thanking him for what he does for your parish.

**Saturday, December 24**  
Vigil of Christmas

Light a candle (in the evening if possible) and ask one member of the family to read the Bible story of Jesus’ birth, **Luke 2:1-20**, out loud, while everyone listens.



*“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh”*

– John 6:51

THE POWER OF ONE YES



DECEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 1

**Sunday, December 25**  
*Christmas Day*

Merry Christmas! Take five quiet minutes to pray to Jesus, thanking Him for coming to redeem us.

**Monday, December 26**  
*Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr of the Church*

St. Stephen was one of the Church's first deacons, who are ordained to serve. In honor of his feast day do something nice for another.

**Tuesday, December 27**  
*Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist*

Write down five ways we can know that God loves us.

**Wednesday, December 28**  
*Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

Purchase diapers, formula, or clothing to donate to a crisis pregnancy center.



**Thursday, December 29**  
*Feast of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr*

Write a poem or draw a picture telling others why Christmas is important to you.

**Friday, December 30**  
*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*

Take time today to share something you appreciate about each member of your family.

**Saturday, December 31**  
*Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas*

It is still the Christmas Octave! Sing Christmas carols with your family today.



THE POWER OF ONE YES



JANUARY 1 - 9

**Sunday, January 1**  
*Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God*

Say a prayer to Mary with your family, thanking her for saying “yes” to being the Mother of God and asking her to help you to love her Son.

**Bonus:** Join Holy Cross Family Ministries in praying a **Novena to Venerable Patrick Peyton**

**Monday, January 2**

Discuss as a family, one thing you can each do this year to learn more about the Catholic faith.

**Tuesday, January 3**  
*Holy Name of Jesus*

**Read Matthew 1:18-25.** Did you know that Jesus’ name means “G saves”? Do your own names have special meanings, or are you named after someone special? Discuss the origins of your names together.

**Wednesday, January 4**  
*Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*

Pray for teachers, catechists, and parents today.



**Thursday, January 5**  
*Feast of Saint André Bessette*

Visit or call someone who might be alone or lonely.

**Friday, January 6**

Hold the door open for someone today. Read more about **Saint Andre Bessette**.

**Saturday, January 7**

Volunteer to help prepare a meal or clean a room with your family today.

**Sunday, January 8**  
*Epiphany\**

Like the Magi, give Jesus a gift today! The best gift we can give Him is our love, so spend five minutes talking to Jesus and telling Him that you love Him.

**Monday, January 9**  
*The Baptism of the Lord*

Discuss with your family how you can continue to say “yes” to God like Mary even when the Christmas season is over. Father Peyton novena ends today, the anniversary of his birth.

\*Epiphany may be celebrated on January 6th in some dioceses around the world.



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