



Advent Family Calendar 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Bless your Family Advent Wreath - pray the First Week of Advent Service with the first candle. Attend the Christmas Bazaar.	3 Decide on a prayer to pray before Christmas shopping. It may be said in the parking lot of the first store/mall. (Our Father/Hail Mary/write your own)	4 Sing Christmas Carols together. If a family member plays a musical instrument, have them lead the effort.	5 Leave a shoe/sock by the fireplace/bed tonight for St. Nicholas.	6 Feast of St. Nicholas Pray Santa's Christmas Prayer (found on back) together.	7 At dinner tonight have each family member name a gift/talent they see in each family member.	8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Attend Mass together on this Holy Day of Obligation and our Parish Feast Day!
9 Pray the Second Week of Advent Service with the second candle.	10 Read a Christmas storybook together.	11 Eat dinner by candlelight (or the light of your Advent Wreath!) as a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World.	12 Prepare our hearts for Christmas: sit together in silence (turn off all electronic devices) for three minutes.	13 Make a Christmas card for a family member (immediate or extended family.)	14 Family Sharing: Each family member shares their favorite Christmas memory.	15 Participate in Carolcade tonight. Pray for those who are homeless.
16 Pray the Third Week of Advent Service with the third candle (this week is the pink candle.)	17 Go to confession as a family. Penance Services are at 3 and 7pm at Annunciation Church in Elma.	18 Family Sharing: Each member shares their favorite ornament and explains why they like it.	19 Pray the Blessing of Home at Christmastime (found on back.)	20 Think of how God has answered your prayers. What can you offer him in thanksgiving?	21 Emmanuel means God with us. Family Sharing: Each family member shares how they know God is with them.	22 Sit together, turn off all the other lights in the house, and watch the Christmas tree lights.
23 Pray the Fourth Week of Advent Service with the fourth candle.	24 Read Matthew 1: 1-25 or John 1: 1-18 together as a family.	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>				

Excerpt from A Charlie Brown Christmas

Linus, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' (Luke 2:8-14) You see, Charlie Brown—that's what Christmas is all about."

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Blessing of Advent Wreath

Scripture

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah. *Isaiah 9: 1-2, 5-6*

Blessing

Lord God, Your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath: May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

St. Nicholas Day Traditions

On December 5th children leave their shoes (or socks or make St. Nicholas bags) by the fireplace or their bed before they go to bed. In the morning they find a yummy treat (often gold chocolate coins) from St. Nicholas in their shoe (sock/bag.) St. Nicholas always gave to those in need. For more information visit:

www.stnicholascenter.org

You may also download the St. Nicholas Day Blessing service from the parish website.

Blessing of Home at Christmas Time

Scripture

Brothers and sisters listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke. *Luke 19: 1-10*

Blessing

Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Weekly Advent Prayer Service

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and lighting of the candle(s) for the week. Read the Gospel for that Sunday:

Week 1: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36 Week 2: Luke 3: 1-6

Week 3: Luke 3: 10-18 Week 4: Luke 1: 39-45

Conclude with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Or download the Advent Wreath Prayer Service from the parish website.

Epiphany Home Blessing

Epiphany is traditionally the day when homes are blessed. Each room of the house may be blessed: For example, "May this room be blessed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

It is also customary to mark the door of the house with the year and the initials of the Three Magi: Casper, Melchior and Balthasar. Crosses separate the letters and the numbers.

20 + C + M + B + 19

The letters represent the Magi; the crosses mark the four corners of the earth or all nations; and the divided year encloses all, signifying the timelessness of God.

Leader: Peace to this house.

All: And to all who dwell or enter here.

Leader: Magi came from the East to pay homage to the Lord, and opening their treasures they offered him gifts: gold for his kingship, frankincense to proclaim him God, and myrrh for the day of his burial.

With chalk, an inscription is made above the door with the Leader's words:

20 + C + M + B + 19

Leader: The three wisemen Casper(C), Melchior(M), and Balthasar(B) followed the star of God's Son who became man two thousand years ago. May Christ (+) Bless our dwelling (+) and remain (+) with us throughout the New Year (+).

All: Amen.

Leader: Visit this home, we ask you, O Lord, and bless it. Let here abide the health and goodness, humility and faith, and every triumph over sin. Let your word be obeyed and fulfilled here, and thanksgiving ever offered to you. May your blessing be always upon us Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. *(Everyone makes the Sign of the Cross.)*

All: Amen.

Leader: May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek to serve Christ in everyone we meet.

All: Amen.

Santa's Christmas Prayer

By Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was packed,
the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt
by the side of the bed.

With sleigh bells a-ringing,
I'll land on each roof,
Amid the soft clatter
of each little hoof.

I can do all these things Lord,
only through You,
I just need Your blessing,
then it's easy to do.

"Dear Father," he prayed
"Be with me tonight.
There's much work to do
and my schedule is tight.

To get in the house
is the difficult part,
So I'll slide down the chimney
of each little heart.

All this is to honor
the birth of the One,
That was sent to redeem us,
Your most Holy Son.

I must jump in my sleigh
and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well
that a reindeer can't fly.

My sack will hold toys
to grant all their wishes.
The supply will be endless
like the loaves and the fishes.

So to all of my friends,
lest Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them,
who gave me this job."

I will visit each household
before the first light,
I'll cover the world
and all in one night.

I will fill all the stockings
and not leave a track.
I'll eat every cookie
that's left for my snack.