

# 2018 Advent Calendar

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**December 2**  
**"BE VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES."**  
(Lk 21:34)  
Today take time to reflect on how you want to live Advent this year, to be watchful and alert with all of creation.

**3**  
**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.

**4**  
**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?

**5**  
**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?

**6**  
**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>

**7**  
**LIGHT**  
"The Lord is my light and my salvation." (Ps 27:1) Let us re-center our lives in the light and love of Jesus by spending extra time in prayer today.

**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**  
**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
"Nature is filled with words of love." (Laudato Si, 225). On this Sabbath, spend some time in nature receiving God's message of love for you and all creation.

**10**  
**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.

**11**  
**LET THE SEA RESOUND**  
"Let the sea and what fills it resound" (Ps 96:11) We rejoice with all the creatures of the sea and reflect on ways we might protect their home through reducing our plastic use.

**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**  
**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?

**14**  
**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.

**15**  
**MAKING SPACE**  
Advent is a time of making space for Christ's birth in our lives. Can you donate one personal item today to reflect how you are making way for Jesus?

**16**  
**GAUDEATE 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?

**17**  
**WAITING WITH CREATION**  
Let us reflect on the many ways creation helps us to celebrate Advent: from Christmas trees, to Advent wreaths, twinkling stars, and animals carefully placed in nativity scenes.

**18**  
**INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY**  
We pray for migrants, whom 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**  
**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.

**20**  
**PART OF THIS EARTH**  
Jesus, "You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth" (Laudato Si). Today we touch the earth and give thanks, for the many ways it sustains all life.

**21**  
**THE VISITATION**  
We rejoice with Mary, Queen of Creation! Let us experience the joy of the Cosmic Christ in our own bodies and recognise 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_iixWJb-7k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_iixWJb-7k)

**23**  
**GIFTS OF THE EARTH**  
The gifts of the Wise Men were of the earth: gold forged from the 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 exalt!' (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 24 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.

