

Advent Activities

What children will remember most is this time with you—of getting to help and be included. And it will also make an impression on them about what the season of Advent truly means, and the joy that can be found in the waiting.

1. Have Sunday Advent dinners

Use these meals to spark conversation and invite talk about Advent, God, prayer, and, of course, to eat. Obviously, feasts are important to Catholics. End these meals by lighting the candle on your Advent wreath for the week.

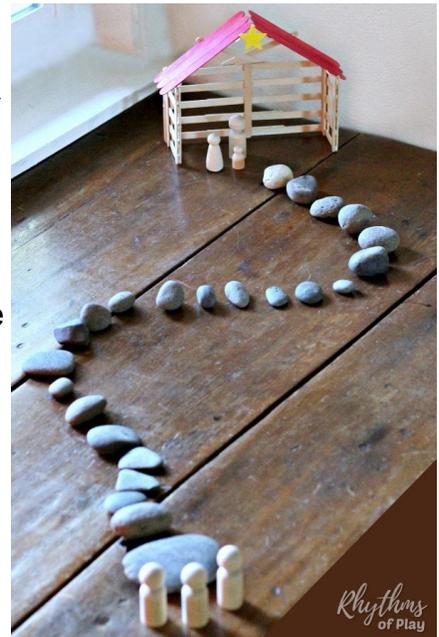
Make an Advent Wreath

<https://buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Advent-in-a-Box-Advent-Wreath.pdf>

2. Make a Stone Advent Calendar

How to Countdown to Christmas with a Stone Advent Calendar

1. Layout 24 rocks or stones in a straight or curved line across a table, shelf, or windowsill. Spirals and also circles work well and would be equally gorgeous!
2. Place a [nativity stable](#) with the [holy family nativity scene](#) at one end of the line of stones. (optional) No popsicle sticks? No problem. Make a stable with building blocks or LEGO™, or cut off the top of a tissue box and stand the box on its long edge.
3. Place shepherds or [wooden peg dolls](#), behind the first stone of your advent calendar.
4. Use the stones to countdown to Christmas starting on the first of December.
5. Simply take away one rock per day until the last stone is removed on Christmas Eve.



Here is a quick Advent calendar of activities you can print out.

<https://go.sadlier.com/religion/advent-calendar>

3. Keep an Advent jar

Here's another giving-back tradition: the Advent jar. Keep a change jar somewhere in your house throughout the month. Any time you have some extra coins, drop them in. Then give the haul to a cause you care about. Even kids who aren't old enough to have an allowance can pitch in by decorating the jar with festive stickers.

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2013/12/nativity-story-cube-full-colour-or.html>

4. Craft a paper chain

If you have young kids at home, a colorful paper chain can be a fun visual countdown to Christmas. Simply staple together paper loops of red, white, and green (or purple and pink, for Advent) and hang the chain somewhere accessible. Let everyone in the family take turns snipping off one link each day. Even for adults, this simple craft is a helpful illustration of the coming of Christmas

5. Paint manger picture

https://ourcrazyadventuresinautismland.com/fork-painting-manger-set/#google_vignette

6. Celebrate saints' feast days throughout December

Tons of inspiring saints have their feast days in December. Get to know their stories by having mini-celebrations for St. Nicolas on December 6, St. Juan Diego on December 9, or St. Lucia on December 13. Bringing to mind their righteous lives may encourage you to think about steps you can take toward more holiness in your own life.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS VIDEOS

3 min video on St. Nicholas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dYs-YuqZRc>

2- 25 min animated St. Nicholas stories part 1 and 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdO1V25wVp0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soICJnH_GoM

9 min St. Juan Diego video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-u7SFLvz8Q>

Watch 5 minute videos from the gospel of Luke retelling the birth of Jesus. Click on Luke-Acts Series

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/gospel-series/>

24 min animated video about Advent

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFTTt1AxINs&feature=emb_rel_pause

4 min Brother Francis video includes Advent wreaths

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pxPAIw2abo>

There are more Brother Francis videos on Formed.

AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas carols and stories

Mi Burrito Sabanero

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJawRaON8h0&ab_channel=MundoCanticuentos

Hawaiian Christmas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoOTHzDdauw&ab_channel=CorinnaGandara

Betelehemu (African)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oX3Hi5PGSDo&ab_channel=AfricanaDigitalEthnographyProject

Jingle Bell Klingelingeling (Germany)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMzoo0E29q8&ab_channel=Kinderlieder%2FWeihnachtslieder%2FvonMuenchenmedia

Native American Night Before Christmas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6YLOXXj8a0&ab_channel=SimonPredj

The Legend of Old Befana

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQeBQOvXcQk&ab_channel=ElementarySchoolReadAlouds

Christmas Activities

Ukrainians hang spider ornaments on their tree with the tradition that this was the origin of tinsel. Make your own spider web

<https://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/halloween-craft-spooky-spider-webs>

and a spider ornament.

<https://craftyourhappiness.com/2014/12/08/the-christmas-spider-free-poem-tag/#comment-945>

San Fernando, in the **Philippines**, celebrates the Giant Lantern Festival, spinning lights to reflect the Star of Bethlehem. Feeling crafty? Make your own together here.

<http://blog.junbelen.com/2011/12/13/how-to-make-a-parol-filipino-christmas-lantern/>

You can also make a simple kid's one here.

<https://www.littlepassports.com/craft-diy/make-beautiful-filipino-parol-lantern/>