



Home Rituals

December 3, 2021

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

Volume 2, Issue 1

Introducing Rituals into your Home.

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Advent and All Things Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Gaudete I will spend a few minutes in prayer and reflection on the joy of the Lord.	29 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	30 I will be joyful in a thanksgiving of the Lord.	1 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	2 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	3 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	4 I will do my work and be joyful in it.
5 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception I will do my work and be joyful in it.	6 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	7 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	8 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	9 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	10 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	11 I will do my work and be joyful in it.
12 Solemnity of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Lord I will do my work and be joyful in it.	13 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	14 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	15 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	16 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	17 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	18 I will do my work and be joyful in it.
19 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	20 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	21 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	22 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	23 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	24 I will do my work and be joyful in it.	25 I will do my work and be joyful in it.
ADVENT 2021						

Advent Calendar

Nothing says Advent like a calendar. Do you remember the expectation of crossing off days or opening the little windows to another day closer to Christmas? Loyola Press, the Jesuit publisher that we use for our Religious Education, has a host of Christmas preparation aids. That includes the printable calendar above as well as an interactive version. See the link <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/calendars/childrens-advent-calendar/>. Don't miss the "related links" at the bottom of the page.



Advent Wreath

And of course, there's the predecessor of the calendar, the Advent Wreath. I remember the thrill of lighting the candles every week. I also remember the retelling of the themes of each week: Hope, Love, Joy, Peace. It wasn't till I was much older that I came to learn that each candle (week) was associated with a different group or character in the Nativity story. Hope is the "Prophet's candle", Love is called the "Bethlehem candle", reminding us of Mary and Joseph, Joy is the "Shepherd's candle" and last, the "Angel's candle". You can read a fine explanation of the wreath at St. Benedict's parish website: <https://stbenedictonline.org/advent-wreath-meaning>. There you will find more details about the wreath along with the meaning of the symbols used in the wreath.



I also like Advent Banners where each week is unfurled with pictures to help represent the themes.

For a blessing of the wreath, please see Loyola Press once again: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/about-advent/advent-links-to-explore-and-share/blessing-an-advent-wreath/>

Drawing God – Advent

This is a continuation of the Drawing God series by Karen Kiefer with illustrations by Kathy de Wit. You may think of this as a gift for you children, but really it is a gift for you—to be able to see inside the heart of your child, to get some glimpse of their belief and their faith. You can download the Drawing God Advent Kit here:

<https://www.drawing-god.com/advent>

Have a look at the other Advent resources offered by Church21 at Boston College

<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/centers/church21/programs/c21-advent-resources.html>

You may want to browse around the C21 site to find articles of interest like this one “The Joy of Having Loud and Messy Kids at Mass”

https://issuu.com/church21c/docs/spring2020_c21resources_spreads/18



Jesse Tree

One popular Advent tradition is making a Jesse tree, which helps us to connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus’ birth. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent people, prophecies, and events that recall God’s promise and its fulfillment. With a focus on Old Testament figures, the Jesse tree is a particularly good activity for sixth graders studying salvation history. It’s also great for any junior high or older group wanting to review the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history.

This Advent, bring the tradition of the Jesse tree to your parish with the help of our new PowerPoint presentation. Each slide in the presentation presents a brief meditation on a Jesse tree figure with a suggested ornament and Scripture citations. Most of the information in this presentation is excerpted from [*The Stories of the Old Testament: A Catholic’s Guide*](#) by Jim Campbell.

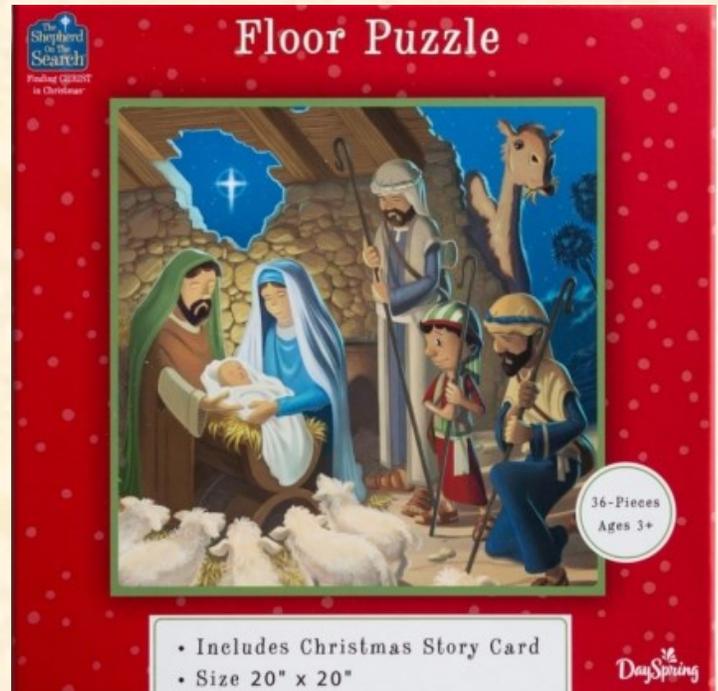
See <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/the-jesse-tree/> and the links lower down for the four weeks of Advent. Each day has a small picture that can be made into an ornament as well as the story behind the ornament. I’m sure those who are sixth grade or older are able to do the cut and paste necessary for making a Jesse Tree.

Obviously Christmas is a time for presents. But how about some "faith based" presents. Having visited Barnes and Noble the other week there are many different Bible Story books for various ages and reading levels. (Religion section)

But there are many other types of gifts to consider that will be a "reminder" of our faith. That might be an icon of the child's patron. If not, perhaps a picture

of an angel, the nativity, Holy Spirit, A simple Google search with "faith gifts children" or "faith-based christmas gifts

" will spur some ideas. I found everything from nativity floor puzzles to prayer bears.



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Finding God in All Things

**The Best Christmas Videos
to make you laugh:**

◆ **Star of Wonder**

https://youtu.be/yHjiB-xp_tE

◆ **An Unexpected Christmas**

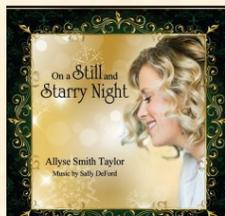
<https://youtu.be/TM1XusYVqNY>

◆ **A Christmas Story According to
Children**

<https://youtu.be/ZmvyglUcyjg>

Even more so than the smell of pine boughs of that of cookies in the oven, I find music puts me into the Christmas mood. The Classical station of Colorado Public Radio has already begun playing these tunes, so I'm feeling Advent.

Still, the problem is often being distracted by tunes that are far from sacred. Santa Baby isn't a bad tune, but it sticks in my head and really ruins a sacred mood. So where do you go for "holy" Christmas music. I found one particular composer, Sally DeFord, provides a pretty good playlist of original music or new arrangement of classics. There are playlists for Spotify, Soundcloud and YouTube. If you really like something, you can download CD's featuring various singers and even download the sheet music. <https://defordmusic.com/playlists/> Maybe you can find something to "still the beasts".



Many know that my favorite is "Guard him, Joseph", a quasi-lullaby. <https://defordmusic.com/song-list/guard-him-joseph/>.



There are a couple of accompanying songs, "Hush the Baby" <https://defordmusic.com/song-list/hush-the-baby/>



Or "Child in a Manger" <https://defordmusic.com/song-list/child-in-a-manger/>

There's a lot available on the website or on the playlists. Hopefully, they will put you in the Advent/Christmas mood.

Christmas Music