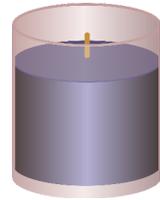


DECEMBER 2018 - The month of the Divine Infancy

<p>Countdown to Christmas by choosing daily Advent Activities (see attached ideas to print).</p>		<p>Create an Advent Wreath in time for the First Sunday of Advent, Sunday 2 December. A white Christ candle can be inserted in the middle and lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.</p> 	
	<p>Create a Jesse Tree with ornaments representing the people, prophecies and events leading up to Jesus' birth. Visit <i>Shower of Roses</i> blog for "A No-Sew Picture Tutorial": http://bit.ly/1j8nqAx</p>		<p>Pray for missionaries all over the world who are spreading God's Word. Consider what your family can do to help those doing a mission (St Francis Xavier, Monday 3 December).</p>
<p>Visit the St Nicholas Center website for ideas about how to tell your children about the true story of Santa Claus (Thursday 6 December). Learn how to turn chocolate Santas into St Nicholas': http://bit.ly/1NPzF2D</p>		<p>St Ambrose (Friday 7 December) is the patron of candlemakers. To prepare for Christmas, try making or decorating a white Christ candle, which represents Christ, the Light of the world.</p>	
	<p>For the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saturday 8 December) consider covering your Christ candle with a mantle made of white cloth or lace (symbolizing Mary's soul without stain). The mantle symbolizes Our Lady, who carried baby Jesus under her heart until He was born. Remove the veil on Christmas morning to reveal the newborn Child.</p>	 <p>Join us Saturday 8th December 2pm Civic Centre to Parliament Grounds</p>	<p>A National March for Life will take place in Wellington on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saturday 8 December). Consider taking your family to this significant event or join it in prayer.</p>
<p>Have a Mexican themed dinner with roses as decorations to celebrate the feast days of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St Juan Diego (12 / 9 December).</p>		<p>Drive around and look at Christmas lights on St Lucy's feast day (Thursday 13 December). This tradition started because her name means "light."</p>	
	<p>St John of the Cross (Friday 14 December) is one of the "big" patrons of the Carmelite order. Many other great saints have come from the Carmelites such as St Teresa of Avila and St Therese of Liseiux. Take some time to read about the Carmelites and their contributions.</p>		<p>Wait until Christmas Day (Tuesday 25 December) to add Jesus to your Nativity scene. Have a Baby Jesus hunt.</p>
<p>The Feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr, is Wednesday 26 December. Pray for those suffering for their faith around the world.</p>		<p>On the Third Day of Christmas we remember St John, apostle and evangelist (Thursday 27 December). Visit website <i>Catholic Culture</i> to do an activity about the origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas: http://bit.ly/2f8BKHj</p>	
	<p>Choose an activity that will help babies, such as donating to a pregnancy centre, praying for babies in danger, or spend time with a special baby in your lives. (Feast of the Innocents, Friday 28 December).</p>		<p>Brainstorm with your family things you can do to live more like the Holy Family. Plan to do at least one by the following week (Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday 30 December).</p>

ADVENT ACTIVITY IDEAS - To add to, print, cut and insert into your Advent Calendar

Hang up your Christmas stocking.	Make Christmas scented playdough with glitter.	Go and choose a Christmas Tree. Decorate the Christmas tree.	Buy a cheap tiny tree, and let the kids decorate it... all by themselves.
Make a gingerbread house.	Visit shop Christmas displays.	Make Christmas cookies or mince pies and give them to your neighbours.	Turn chocolate Santas into St Nicholas'. http://bit.ly/1NPzF2D
Have a bubble bath by candle light.	Put up a wreath.	Dip Candy Canes in Hot Chocolate.	Put out a Nativity set.
Celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (12 December) or St Juan Diego (9 December) by eating Mexican food for dinner.	Set up a train track around the tree. Build a little figurine world around it.	On St Lucia (Lucy)'s feast day, 13 December, drive around and look at Christmas lights. This tradition started because her name means "light".	Bake a birthday cake for Jesus.
Put your shoes out for St Nicholas' Feast Day, 6 December.	Watch a Christmas movie e.g. The Star www.thestarmovie.com	Dance to Christmas songs.	Go to a Carol Service.
Wrap some presents for Dad.	Sing Christmas songs by candle light.	Have a picnic under the Christmas tree.	Family game night.
Shop for food and toys to donate.	Make some handmade gifts.	Make Christmas cards, and mail them.	Visit a Christmas Display.
Wait to add Jesus to your Nativity scene until Christmas. Have a Baby Jesus hunt.	Have a Christmas pageant.	Buy canned food and donate it to the food bank.	Go to a Christmas Parade.
Make paper chains or popcorn chains to decorate the house.	Colour in some Christmas pictures. (J is for Jesus Candy Canes)	Read Christmas books with hot chocolate and marshmallows.	Do a Christmas craft. (Make a snow globe or paper angels.)
Use a JoyWare "Cradle to Cross Wreath" to journey with Mary and Child on a donkey travelling to Bethlehem through the 24 days of Advent. http://bit.ly/1LZZYTC	Give a gift to Jesus to celebrate His birthday. Jesus taught us that when we help those in need, we are helping Him.		