



## Advent Family Resources

**Suggestion: Pick one tradition to start with your family. The fruits will be when your child/children make this a holy time of preparation for Jesus.**

### Celebrate:

Saint Nicholas Day! -<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>

Read the story of St. Nicholas and set your children's shoes out by the fireplace or door and place small chocolate coins in their shoes on December 6<sup>th</sup> –Feast Day!

### Online Resources:

<https://www.catholicicing.com/> -Make the liturgical year fun, engaging, and meaningful for young children. This site offers, crafts, costumes, print-ables, and many ideas to put the "icing on your Catholic Faith." A must for young Catholic families!

<https://www.holyheroes.com/> -Sign up for "Advent Adventure" and receive a short video directly to your email every day. The videos are created by kids and are very engaging! This site contains so much more and hosted by a faithful Catholic family. Most of the resources are free, including all the daily emails and videos, but they also have amazing items to purchase. Great for Christmas gifts!

### Hands-On Fun Family Activities:

**Advent Wreath** –Light a candle each night at the dinner table. Short prayers can accompany the lighting, and/or sing a verse of "O Come, O Come Immanuel."

**Nativity Set** –Have a set the children can play with and make it hands on!

**Jesse Tree** –The basic concept behind a Jesse Tree is that you have one ornament for each day in December, and it counts down to the coming of Christ on the 25th. Each ornament stands for a person or event from the Old Testament that leads up to the coming of Christ. Every evening, you hang an ornament on the tree that symbolizes that biblical event and do a small reading or devotional about that Bible story. Easy, printable ornaments are found free on the resources above or children have fun being creative and making them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Turn Over \_\_\_\_\_

**Sacrifice Manger** –Make a simple manger out of clay, popsicle sticks, or anything around the house. Cut up pieces of yellow yarn or paper to resemble the straw. When children make a sacrifice throughout Advent they are told to “put a piece of hay in the manger.” By the end of Advent, the manger is soft and cozy for Jesus to come. (We place a small Jesus in it Christmas Morning.)

**Christmas Morning** –Wrap the Jesus up from your nativity set and have the children open it first! Read the Nativity Story and place Jesus in the manger before opening any presents. Jesus is the most important present!! A wonderful family tradition.

**Advent Calendar** –A spin off the traditional chocolate ones. Place a small token, task, or good deed to perform in each envelope, drawer, or box. Many options for calendars but it creates the count down and children anticipate the coming of Jesus. (Examples: A pencil, “make cards for the homeless”, “watch a Christmas movie together”, “do something nice without being noticed today.”)

**Donate to a person or family from Hope House** –Every year Hope House has a variety of names or families that need donations for their Christmas celebration. Have the children pick the names then shop as a family for their gifts first before your families’ gifts.

**Read Luke 2:1-7 together** – Read as a family. Have children summarize the story or act it out. Draw or color pictures. Compare it with other nativity children stories.

**Make cards** – A wonderful year to bring joy to someone who is lonely or alone by sending a card or virtual hug/video!

