



Created by the
Office of Peace, Justice, and Respect Life
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Raleigh

2009 Family Advent Calendar

Advent Calendar Sharing Guidelines

This calendar invites you, your family, your students, or your small groups to count your blessings and reach out to those in need through monetary donation and prayer. It is an experience in true "CHRIST"mas giving.

Wrap a small box in Christmas paper so your monetary donations can be added to the box. Use the suggested amounts or create your own amounts. The contents of the box should be donated to your favorite charity on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2010.



"Be patient, therefore, brother, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."
James 5:7-8

Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Let these themes of Catholic Social Teaching help you reflect during this Advent season.

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

All human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death. Everyone is precious. People are more important than things.

Call to Family, Community, & Participation

People are both sacred and social. Families need to be strengthened and supported. The entire human family is also our responsibility.

Rights and Responsibilities

Human dignity and a healthy world community can only occur if we all have fundamental rights and take responsibility for ensuring the rights of all.

Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

Our society will be judged by how the most poor and vulnerable are treated.

Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers



All human beings have a right to safe employment and a fair wage.











Solidarity

We are one human family. To "love your neighbor" means to love and care for people of all faiths, backgrounds, cultures, and communities.

Care of God's Creation

Our planet and universe are a sacred creation too. We must care for our environment as good stewards of our earthly house.

<p>November 29</p> <p>FIRST DAY of ADVENT</p> <p>For every female in your family who is free to go to school, pursue a career, or even walk openly on the streets without fear, contribute to box.</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>"Ask and you shall receive."</i> Matthew 7:7</p> <p>During your prayer time today, ask God to help those who are in most need; the poor, the hungry, the homeless. God may answer your prayer by inspiring <u>you</u> to help!</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>World AIDS Day</p> <p>Add \$1 for every person you know with AIDS. 1 million children die each year from AIDS.</p>  <p>GO to www.crs.org to see AIDS work of Catholic Relief Services.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</p> <p>Pray today for those in our world who are still living as slaves or who do not receive fair wages for their labor.</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."</i> Matthew 5</p> <p><i>Pray for peace in our world, especially the Middle East, and pray for an end to all violence. Pray also for those in the military.</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>More than half the world's population, does not have adequate water for sanitation. How can you preserve water in your home?</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Add 50 cents of your drinking water is safe to drink. More than 5 million people die every year from illness caused by unsafe drinking water.</p>
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>St. Nicholas Day Put some special surprises in your family's shoes. Say a prayer of Thanksgiving for family.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Add 50 cents if you can name a family doctor. Add \$1 if you have gone to the doctor this year. Much of the world's population doesn't receive adequate medical care.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p>  <p>Say a prayer today for the protection of all mothers and children.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Add \$1 if you have a library card. Thank God that you are blessed to be able to use such a wonderful resource for yourself and your family.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Go to http://www.catholic-chariteisusa.org/</p> <p>And find out how Catholic Charities USA is working to build a more compassionate and just society in the United States.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Add 50 cents for anyone in your family or circle of friends that serves the public as a policeman, firefighter, or emergency medical technician. Now call them and say "thank you"!</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</p>  <p>Say a prayer today for all persons of Hispanic origin in our Diocese.</p>
<p>13</p>  <p>St. Lucia Day</p> <p>If you have lived at a permanent address for more than 6 months, add .50. If you own a home add \$1.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>"We must make haste. Too many people are suffering." Pope Paul VI</p> <p>Visit www.USCCB.org to see what our US Bishops are saying about many social justice/respect life issues.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Add 1 cent for every book that you own. Nearly 100 million people worldwide can't read and write.</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Go to http://www.crs.org/ And find out how Catholic Relief Services is staying true to it's mission— Giving Hope to a World in Need.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Add \$1 if you have already sung Christmas Carols this advent season.</p> 	<p>18</p> <p><i>"If you do this for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do it for me."</i> Matthew 25</p> <p>Help a neighbor or someone in your family without being asked.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>If you can access information through newspapers, the Internet, radio, or television add \$1. If you have ever written a letter to the editor (whether it was published or not), add another \$1.</p>
<p>20</p> <p><i>"You shall worship the Lord, your God. God alone shall you serve."</i> Luke 4</p> <p>What do you worship? Money? Status? Material things? Popularity? Beauty? Or do you worship God?</p>	<p>21</p> <p>On this, the darkest day of the year, add 2 cents for every light bulb in the house. Count the number of strings of Christmas lights you have on your tree.</p> 	<p>22</p>  <p>Add \$1 if you will be able to attend a church of your choice this Christmas.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Jesus teaches us the 2 commandments. Can you name them? <i>Read Mark 12:28-34</i> for the answer.</p> <p>Say "I love you" to those closest to you today.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>  <p>Have a most Blessed Christmas!</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day Take some time today to thank God for your many blessings!</p> 	<p>Questions? Comments? Need resources for more information?</p> <p>Contact our Office: (919) 821-9751 Or e-mail Melissa.ducharme@raldioc.org</p>