The Catholic Messenger

Advent Calendar

Two thousand twenty six

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 29  Begin this journey of Advent by blessing an Advent wreath and lighting the first violet candle!	**Nov. 30** "Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world." - Pope Francis, Angelus, 2018	**Dec. 1**  Read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day in December, as there are 24 chapters leading up to Christmas Eve.	**2**  "Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others." Pope Leo XIV, speech, May 12, 2025	**3** St. Francis Xavier, whose feast day is today, was one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), and led an extensive mission to proclaim Christianity throughout Asia. Pray today for foreign-born priests and for all those who minister abroad.	**4**  Make plans to receive the gift of God's mercy in the sacrament of penance during this Advent season. Check with your local parish for confession times or communal penance services.	**5**  Songs such as "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," can help set the tone for Advent! Create or find a playlist of Advent songs on YouTube or your favorite streaming app!
6  On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:1).	**7**  This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed today. Attend Mass and, then if possible, pray the rosary.	**8**  St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas crèche, or manger, for Christmas Eve of 1223. Set up a nativity scene in your home and use the blessing in the purple box below.	**9**  The Diocese of Davenport's Office of Faith Formation has a plethora of Advent and Christmas ideas on its website. Discover activities, prayers and more at www.davenportdiocese.org/ff-christmas	**10** "Christ saved men not with thunder and lightning, but as a wailing babe in the manger and as a silent sufferer upon the cross" (St. Jerome, Letters, 82.1). Reflect on the humility of Christ today and on how you can see Christ in the poor and humble.	**11** Before bed, say a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the people who have enriched your life and strengthened your faith. 	**12**  Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe who appeared to Juan Diego as a pregnant indigenous woman. Mary's apparition reminds us once again that God reveals himself to us in unexpected ways.
13  On Gaudete Sunday, we light the rose (pink) candle on the Advent wreath and shift our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." We are more than halfway to Christmas day!	**14**  Every person is wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God. Help your parish become a place where everyone has the opportunity to worship, learn, serve, and share their gifts together as one body in Christ. Go to www.davenportdiocese.org/belonging-disability-inclusion-ministry or call the diocesan Office of Faith Formation for ideas and resources!	**15**  In the bustle of the holiday season, spend some time this week in silence and prayer, possibly before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas.	**16**  Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Follow *The Catholic Messenger* on Facebook or Instagram for updates on where and when Las Posadas will take place in our diocese.	**17** Today marks the beginning of the "O Antiphons." This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century. The prayer is available at www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons-advent	**18**  Watch a Christmas movie with your loved ones tonight! Check out Focus' Catholic Christmas movie recommendations at https://tinyurl.com/focusmovies	**19** In today's Gospel, we learn of Elizabeth's miraculous conception of her son, John. Say a prayer today for those experiencing an unfulfilled longing for children. Ask God to ease the pain of unmet longings, loneliness or societal pressure. Pray that their lives overflow with meaningful impact — whether through mentoring, caring for others, community involvement or serving as spiritual mothers and fathers.
20 On this fourth Sunday of Advent, light the third violet candle on your Advent wreath. Let us build one another up, grateful that God has renewed our humanity by coming among us.	**21** Is a long-standing grudge or feud keeping you from reaching out to certain friends and family members this Christmas season? Pray about it, and consider using this season as a time of reconciliation and healing.	**22**  The holiday season can be isolating for those coping with loneliness or grief. Take time to reach out and remind someone that they are seen and loved by God and others.	**23**  Christmas Masses are a wonderful opportunity to re-engage Catholics who have fallen away. Invite your fallen-away friends to attend Mass with you. Keep them, and all fallen away Catholics, in your prayers this season.	**24**  Reflect on your Advent journey. How have you brought hope to others? How have you experienced God's love and mercy?	**25** Merry Christmas! "On this holy day, let us open our hearts to our brothers and sisters who are in need or in pain. In doing so, we open our hearts to the Child Jesus, who welcomes us with open arms and reveals His divinity to us." -Pope Leo XIV "urbi et orbi" message, Dec. 25, 2025	Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "advenire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

Advent & New Year Retreats
PERSONAL RETREATS
HOST Your GROUP at
Benet House Retreat Center
309-283-2108
SMMSISTERS.ORG

Cinderella's Cellar RESALE SHOP Benefitting the Kahl Home
230 W. 35th St., Davenport, IA
Christmas blessings from Cinderella's Cellar.
Thank you for the generosity and
continued support of all our customers!

Welch Riley Freers Funeral Home
Joseph & Jennifer Riley Vogel
Charles & Sarah Vogel
4th Generation Family Owned
(563) 263-3314
1931 Houser St, Muscatine, IA

SERRA INTERNATIONAL
780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA
52804-1901
(563) 324-1911

Serving the Catholic community since 1918
LENSING Funeral & Cremation Service
Iowa City and Coralville
319-338-8171
www.lensingfuneral.com

This Christmas
Gift a Retreat Experience
The Prairie Retreat
FOR A CALENDAR OF EVENTS VISIT
theprairieretreat.org

Menke & Company
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Business Consulting | Accounting | Full-Service Payroll
Tax Planning & Preparation | Audit Services
West Point, IA | Burlington, IA
319-837-6042
www.menkeco.cpa

St. Ambrose University
KALA 88.5 FM
est. 1969
Davenport - Quad Cities
Listen on the Radio and Everywhere
at kalafm.org

The Catholic Messenger
Access diocesan news YOUR way!
Print edition & E-edition
Facebook/Web/Instagram/Mobile/Video
www.catholicmessenger.net

McCarthy-Bush Corporation
mccarthybushcorp.com
563-359-0500

St. Ambrose University
CATHOLIC ROOTS.
Education to better the world.
We lead with courage, wisdom, justice, and service.
Apply now at sau.edu

Halligan·McCabe·DeVries
FUNERAL HOME
(563) 322-4438
www.hmdfuneralhome.com