

LITURGICAL LIVING

Series 16: December 10-16

The Nativity Scene

One Advent tradition that we can't forget is the Nativity Scene!

St. Francis of Assisi is credited for creating the first Nativity scene (also called a creche). When we gather figures of the Holy Family, Shepherds, wise men, angels and animals, it reminds us to keep the true meaning of Christmas close to our hearts as we prepare during Advent.



Some people set it all up right away and other people set out a few items at a time. Leaving Baby Jesus out until Christmas! Also, it is fun to have the wise men wandering around as they look for Jesus until Epiphany..

If you have littles, it's great to get a set they can play with. There are ones to buy or you can [make one!](#)

December 10: Second Sunday of Advent (PEACE) and Our Lady of Loretto

- Continue with your Advent wreath!
- Look at this Advent [artwork](#) and pray with it.

Our Lady of Loretto

The Virgin Mary was born of SS. Anne and Joachim in Nazareth, where the Annunciation took place. This home was believed to have been kept by Mary throughout Jesus' life. After His Ascension, the Apostles are believed to have made the home a chapel. A Basilica was built around the house and there are records of the Christians worshiping there for nearly 1000 years. Then during the Crusades, Our Lady's home was threatened with destruction. It is believed that four angels carried the house to Loreto, Italy in 1295.

While this is not a dogma of the faith, there have been numerous popes and Saints who have made pilgrimages to this house.

Celebrate: This could be a good day to make some gingerbread houses.



December 11

- Watch an Advent video from this [list](#).

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

- Check out last week's [post](#) about St. Juan Diego.
- [Our Lady of Guadalupe coloring page](#)



December 13: St. Lucy

- The name Lucy means "light". She was a third-century Italian Christian martyr who is remembered for her bravery in defending the faith at a young age and her charity to the poor.
- **Celebrate**
- There are two main traditions associated with St. Lucy throughout the world and they are St. Lucy Crowns and sweet rolls.
 - **Crowns:** In Norway and Sweden little girls process in white dresses with red sashes carrying palms and they wear a crown of evergreen branches with four tall white candles that are lit! I admit it is a bit extra but it is really cute when done! I found a post that even made one for their little boy! If you're not digging the idea of putting fire on your child's head, I understand so [this](#) may be more manageable.

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The Days of Advent



December 13: St. Lucy Continued

- Consider eating or spending the evening in candlelight.
- Go for a drive to look at the Christmas lights around town or even make a trip to the Kiwanis Lights in Mankato!
- Drop off canned goods at the local food shelf.

Come to Mass with us! The AFC is offering Mass in St. Peter at 5:45pm! Confessions before and after!



December 14: St. John of the Cross (14)

- St. John of the Cross lived in Spain during the sixteenth century. He had a great devotion to the crucifixion. He was granted a vision of seeing Christ from above during his crucifixion and he sketched it. This became the inspiration for the well known painting by Salvador Dali, Christ of Saint John of the Cross.

Celebrate

- This is a good feast day to remember that Christ was born to suffer and die for our sins. Taking some time to pray with a crucifix is a good way to honor St. John of the Cross.
- [St. John of the Cross Quote Coloring Page](#)

December 15

- After the Annunciation, Mary went to visit another miraculous baby. Gabriel told her that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also expecting a baby. It was miraculous because her husband, Zechariah and her had been married for many years and never had a baby. When Mary arrived, the baby leapt in Elizabeth's womb. Even as a baby in the womb, St. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized his savior!
- During Advent, St. John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way of the Lord and make ready our hearts for His coming.
- Make a plan to go to confession before the end of Advent if you have not yet! Here is the [Confession Schedule](#) for our AFC. Remember Fr. is available before and after Mass during Advent.

December 16 Christmas Novena (16-25)

- Not the St. Andrew Christmas Novena! But is anyone doing that? As I'm writing this, I have succeeded but I have to pray 7 more times and it's 7pm... I got this.... But this Christmas Novena follows the 9-day format and you only have to pray once each day! Something we like to do with Novenas is to see if another family wants to join you in the Novena. There is something about it that helps you be more accountable and it can bring your families together in a shared cause. You share each other's intentions and pray for them and yourselves! You can be physically together but that is not required.
- Here is a Christmas Novena prayer outline from [Pray More Novenas](#).

