

# Advent acts of evangelization

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Advent is a time of preparation that connects our hearts and minds to the coming of Christ at the end of time and the celebration of His birth on Christmas. Advent comes from the Latin "advenio," meaning "to come."

The Church focuses on the coming of Christ at the end of time in the first several weeks of Advent; in the latter part of Advent, the O Antiphons (Dec. 17-24), we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord.

The liturgical color for Advent is purple, just like Lent. Both seasons prepare us for great feast days. While Advent is not, strictly

speaking, a penitential season, traditionally some penance and fasting was encouraged as a way of preparing for the joy of Christmas. This penitential dimension is expressed through the color purple, decorating the church and altar in a restrained manner, and the use of the organ and other musical instruments in a similar moderation.

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, which comes from the first word of the Latin Entrance Antiphon for this day, meaning "rejoice." The color rose is used, instead of purple, to heighten our awareness of the joyful coming of our Lord.

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November

**SUNDAY 27**  
Do something nice for your neighbors. Bring a small gift at the holidays or offer to do something for them, such as an errand or raking leaves.

**SUNDAY 4**  
Take a walk and pray the Rosary for someone.

**SUNDAY 11**  
Tell someone you forgive them.

**SUNDAY 18**  
Bring cookies or sing carols to the residents of a nursing home

**MONDAY 28**  
Pray for someone by name. Ask God for opportunities to share the faith with that person and trust His timing as you build a relationship with him or her.

**MONDAY 5**  
Befriend a stranger.

**MONDAY 12**  
Be kind to someone you dislike.

**MONDAY 19**  
If you're a boss, be extra kind and generous to employees.

**TUESDAY 29**  
Open the door for someone.

**TUESDAY 6**  
Reach out to someone you haven't talked to in a while.

**TUESDAY 13**  
Say "good morning" and "thank you" to public service workers (bus drivers, police officers, mail carriers or firefighters).

**TUESDAY 20**  
Offer to organize a regular Rosary — invite your neighbors to pray together outside.

**WEDNESDAY 30**  
Go out into the world — literally. Find a way to connect with someone outside of your immediate circle of friends and family. A small conversation about a faith tradition or an invitation to a Church event are ways to evangelize.

**WEDNESDAY 7**  
Compliment your spouse or another family member.

**WEDNESDAY 14**  
Listen to a friend who vents with problems. Just listen.

**WEDNESDAY 21**  
Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. Go to eucharistic adoration or attend a weekday Mass. Look to Him for strength as you share His Good News with others.

December

**THURSDAY 1**  
Write a letter to your parent or grandparent telling them how much you appreciate something they did.

**THURSDAY 8**  
Make a donation to a Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store.

**THURSDAY 15**  
Write a letter to your former schoolteachers and tell them how much they influenced you.

**THURSDAY 22**  
Volunteer for your parish. Offer to be a confirmation sponsor for a young person in your parish who doesn't have someone to sponsor them.

**FRIDAY 2**  
Share a story about why faith is important to you. It's hard to argue against a lived experience.

**FRIDAY 9**  
Let go of old grudges.

**FRIDAY 16**  
Pray for people in cars next to you at stop lights and ask God to give them peace.

**FRIDAY 23**  
Display Catholic art in your home. This can open the door to conversation about faith.

**SATURDAY 3**  
Forgive yourself for any mistakes you've made and confess them in the sacrament of reconciliation.

**SATURDAY 10**  
Praise a child to the parents while the child is present.

**SATURDAY 17**  
Instead of hosting a holiday party, host a service project to benefit others in need.

**SATURDAY 24**  
Write and mail a letter to a family member or friend.