











2025 Advent Calendar - Caring for Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 30	December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6
<p>HOPE: 1st Sunday in Advent</p> <p><i>"... for now, our salvation is nearer than when we believed."</i> Romans 13:11</p> <p>Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:37-44 <i>"Therefore, keep watch, for you do not know the day when your Lord is coming."</i></p> <p>Light the first violet candle of your Advent wreath & read Psalm 62:6-7 on HOPE.</p>	<p>Thomas House provides HOPE and a safe environment for unhoused and at-risk families empowering them to become self-sufficient for their transition to permanent housing.</p> <p>Learn more at thomashouseshelter.org</p> <p>Did you select your gift tag from the Giving Garland? Have you purchased your gift for an adult or child?</p>	<p>During this first week of Advent, we remember the Old Testament prophecies that foretold of Jesus' coming with HOPE and anticipation.</p> <p>Go to your Bible and look up the following:</p> <p>Isaiah 7:14</p> <p>Micah 5:1</p> <p>Isaiah 9:6</p> 	<p>Feast of Saint Francis Xavier, co-founder of the Jesuits. He is a Patron Saint of Catholic Missionaries.</p> <p><i>"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."</i> Matthew 28:19-20</p>	<p><i>"Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."</i> --Mother Teresa</p> <p>December 10th is the due date for Thomas House gifts. Please bring your offerings to the parish office by the end of the day.</p> 	<p>International Volunteer Day Keep HOPE alive!</p> <p>Today we honor volunteers and recognize their value in advancing peace, humanitarian, and development efforts around the world.</p> <p>Prayerfully consider becoming a volunteer in your community. Need ideas? Contact Louise Nakamine at lnakamine@ssj.org.</p>	<p>Feast of St. Nicholas</p> <p>Read his story of generous gift giving at st.nicholascenter.org and celebrate the day with the little ones in your life with one of these crafts, activities or games.</p> <p><i>"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."</i> 2 Cor 9: 7-8</p>
December 7	December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13
<p>FAITH: 2nd Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12 <i>"Repent, for the kingdom of God is close at hand."</i></p> <p>John the Baptist spent contemplative time in the desert before he began baptizing. Spend some time in God's creation - at the beach, a park or a garden thinking about how you can prepare a way for the Lord in your life.</p>	<p>Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>To honor Our Blessed Mother, place white carnations in a jar and add blue food coloring to the water. The flowers will slowly turn a soft blue, symbolizing peace, purity, sincerity, and new beginnings.</p> 	<p>Sea Cliff Assisted Living</p> <p>We are supporting our community's elderly with personalized gifts to bring cheer and love to those who may be feeling lonely and abandoned. For many this will be their only gift. If you took a tag from the garland on Mondor Plaza, please bring your gift to any weekend Mass or the parish office by 12/14.</p>	<p>Thoughtfully consider the present that is your presence. Instead of searching for a special gift, plan to give a shared experience. Consider a concert, play, museum, or game. Plan a day hike or activity and pack a picnic lunch. Most importantly, put the phones away and just be present with them.</p> 	<p>A "Revolution of Care and Gratitude for the Elderly" was called for by Pope Leo XIV, to regularly visit older people emphasizing the importance of supporting and valuing grandparents and the elderly in our community, and to help end the loneliness and indifference that separates us. Call or visit an older person in your life or community today.</p>	<p>Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p>Read the story and reflect on how Our Holy Mother chose a widower, a poor, humble peasant farmer to initiate the building of her church and be a witness to her miracles. Celebrate the spreading of our faith with roses, Mexican food including cakes with frosting roses, and Mexican music.</p> 	<p>Make a Christmas ornament with the kiddos in your life. Gather small seashells or rocks from God's creation. Glue them to some recycled cardboard cut into shapes like a Christmas tree or a star. Leave a hole punched for ribbon. You can paint them first for a pop of color, or use recycled items like bottle caps or old buttons. Let them use their imagination and have fun!</p> 

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December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20
<p>JOY: 3rd Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Gaudete Sunday - Let us rejoice! Light 3 Advent candles: 2 violet and one rose that symbolizes JOY.</p> <p>Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11 "Go tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."</p>	<p>Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Leo just released his first major teaching, "Dilexi Te," "I have loved you," (Rev 3:9).</p> <p>In this teaching, the pope affirms the Biblical and Catholic imperative to care for, love and serve the poor. He calls us to be less self-centered and to open our ears to the cry of the poor.</p> <p>How can you demonstrate Christ's love for those suffering in our world today?</p>	<p>Share Our Selves provides assistance and healing to the working poor and unhoused in our community.</p> <p>Care Management of Older Adults through the Senior Center in Central Park provides a variety of services to under-supported Adults in HB.</p> <p>Advent Penance Service 7pm</p>	<p>"The angel said to them, <i>"Do not be afraid; for behold I proclaim to you good news of great JOY that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."</i></p> <p>--Luke 2:10-11</p> <p>Find time for silent prayer gazing upon your family's creche or lit Advent wreath and let your heart fill with joy.</p>	<p>How can you bring JOY to someone today?</p> <p>Ask a friend to go on a walk together. Pay a compliment to someone you pass in the hall or on the street. Say "hi" to a new person at church, school or work. Bake something and take it to neighbor. Share a cup of tea or coffee.</p> <p>Spread JOY!</p>	<p>Thank you for your generosity in buying gifts, both large and small for Share Our Selves. So many families are struggling to make ends meet, so your kindness is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Consider starting a novena for the Holy Family and say a special prayer for your SOS family.</p> <p>Go to: www.praymorenovenas.com/holy-family-novena</p>	<p>Take time to create some Family JOY!</p> <p>Take a drive to look at Christmas lights, watch your favorite Christmas movie together, go Christmas caroling, bake Christmas cookies, schedule a Zoom call or Facetime with family members who live far away.</p> <p>Give each other the present of your presence.</p>
December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24	December 25	December 26	December 27
<p>LOVE and PEACE: 4th Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Light all four candles of your Advent wreath. The 4th candle is called the Angel's Candle, reminding us of their message, "<i>Peace on earth, good will toward men.</i>"</p> <p>Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24 "and she shall bring forth a son: and thou shalt call his name Jesus. For he shall save his people from their sins."</p>	<p>The Huntington Beach Navigation Center provides a peaceful environment for the unhoused by providing temporary shelter, meals, showers and other support services.</p> <p>Please prayerfully discern how you and your family can help support the HB Navigation Center in the New Year.</p> <p>Check out the link above for donation and volunteer opportunities.</p> 	<p>"Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words."</p> <p>--Pope Leo XIV</p> <p>Take time today to encourage the people you meet. Let them know they are important and loved by God.</p> 	<p>Keep the focus on Christ this Christmas. Plan a birthday party for baby Jesus!</p> <p>Bake a cake with your family and sing "happy Birthday" to Jesus. Blow out the four candles to mark the end of the Advent season.</p> 	<p>The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)</p> <p>"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." John 1:14</p> <p>This Christmas, look beyond the material things and reflect on the gifts of Christ: understanding, love & compassion.</p>	<p>Exchanging Christmas cards is a gesture of love.</p> <p>Looking through them with your family helps celebrate the season and strengthens bonds with family and friends, especially those who live far away.</p> <p>Close this activity by praying for everyone who remembered you by sending a Christmas card.</p> 	<p>Reflect on the Holy Family Feast Day Dec. 28, 2025</p> <p>The Holy Family exemplifies the love of God for humanity and the love of parents for each other and their children.</p> <p>The Holy Family's faith in God and trust in His plan also encourages us to embody these virtues in our own families.</p>