St Mark Church - St James Church

Emporium - Driftwood Pennsylvania

2026 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 November **First Sunday of Advent** *"Be watchful! Be alert!"* (Mark 13:33). Bless an Advent wreath and light the first violet candle.	**30** **Feast of St. Andrew** Andrew met Jesus, then brought his brother (John 1:41). Invite one person to grow closer to Christ.	**1 December** *"Do everything without grumbling" (Philippians 2:14).* Today, make a conscious effort to replace complaints with gratitude.	**2** St. Francis built the first crèche in 1223. Set up your nativity but leave the manger empty. Ask: what in me still needs preparing?	**3** Charity reaches beyond our circle (CCC 2446). Put out a jar for spare change. At Christmas, give it to the poor box.	**4** We wait for Jesus to come, yet He waits for us in the tabernacle (CCC 1418). Attend Mass or spend fifteen quiet minutes with Him today.	**5** *"It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep"* (Romans 13:11). Start a task you've been putting off and offer the first hour to God.
6 Second Sunday of Advent John the Baptist cries, *"Prepare the way of the Lord"* (Mark 1:3). Light the second candle. Make a step toward repentance this week.	**7** Worry imagines a future without God. *"Do not worry about tomorrow"* (Matthew 6:34). When anxiety rises, pray: "Jesus, I trust in You!"	**8 Immaculate Conception** Mary was preserved from original sin from her conception (CCC 491). Attend Mass; it's a holy day of obligation.	**9** St. Juan Diego faced delays and doubts, but kept returning faithfully. Today, when you find yourself waiting, pray a Hail Mary instead of complaining.	**10** Today recalls the Holy House of Nazareth. Your parish is a household, too, and this season is busy. Ask the parish office how you can help.	**11** Fasting makes room for others' needs (Isaiah 58:6-7). Skip dessert or coffee for someone in the news. When you feel the absence, pray for them.	**12 Our Lady of Guadalupe** "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" Place roses by an image of Mary, recalling Juan Diego's tilma, and pray the Hail, Holy Queen.
13 Gaudete Sunday *"Rejoice in the Lord always… the Lord is near"* (Philippians 4:4-5). Light two violet candles and the rose one. Thank God for promises he has kept.	**14** Pray with Mary's *"May it be done to me"* (Luke 1:37-38). Where is God drawing you deeper in faith and trust? What are you resisting?	**15** Instead of scrolling, read a saint: St. Bernard's Advent sermon on Christ's three comings, a letter of St. Thérèse, or *Introduction to the Devout Life*.	**16** *"Love is patient"* (1 Corinthians 13:4). Patience is charity. St. Francis de Sales said to practice it on yourself first. When you fall, begin again.	**17** Through December 23, the Church calls Jesus by prophetic titles, the basis of *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."* Meditate on today's: O Wisdom (Sirach 24:3).	**18 *O Adonai*** Moses turned aside to see the burning bush (Exodus 3:3). Abstain from recreational screens from noon to 3:00pm for a personal intention. Be still.	**19 *O Root of Jesse*** "God never tires of forgiving us; we tire of seeking his mercy" (Pope Francis). Make a careful examination of conscience and go to Confession.
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent Gabriel visits Mary (Luke 1:26-38). Light all four candles. Pray with this Gospel and ask Mary to help you trust God's plan.	**21 *O Radiant Dawn*** On the year's longest night, Christ shines *"on those who sit in darkness"* (Luke 1:79). Call or visit someone lonely. Listen more than you talk.	**22 *O King of Nations*** Advent habits often die December 26. Reflect on how your Advent went. Choose one practice to continue into the new year and write it down.	**23** Tidy the house and prepare to receive the King into your heart and home.	**24** *Rejoice!* Place the Infant Jesus in the manger and pray with Luke 2:6-7.	***"While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn"* (Luke 2:6-7).**	

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