

Joyful Catholic Families

Nativity Story Advent Chain

Advent is not a set number of days. It can be 22 to 28 days long.

If Advent is 28 days long, use the first four pages of this chain.

If Advent is less than 28 days, skip the fourth page and use the last page. (Note: pages 4 and 5 are the same except that page 5 does not have numbers). Figure out how many days Advent will be, and pick enough days from page 5 to complete your chain. For example, if you have a 24-day Advent, choose the first, second, and last link on page 5 to complete your Advent chain.

Print the Advent chain. I like to print the first, second, and last page on lavender paper and the third page on pink paper. This reflects the colors of the Advent wreath (3 purple candles and one pink candle).

Cut apart the links on the black lines.

Make a “chain link” with the #1 strip of paper by gluing the ends together. I like to use glue sticks for this.

Put the #2 strip of paper through the link made with strip #1. Glue the ends of #2 to make another link.

Put #3 strip of paper through the link made with strip #2. Glue the ends to make another link.

Continue until all the strips of paper have been made into a chain.

Cut out the star and staple to link #28.

Hang in your house. Remove a link each day of Advent — beginning with link #1.

Bible text is from the Good News Translation (Today's English Version, Second Edition) ©1992 American Bible Society.

#1 Luke 1:26-28 — *God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"*

Pray the "Our Father" for the people in your parish.

#2 Luke 1:29-33 — *Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary: God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"*

Pray the "Hail Mary" for those who are pregnant.

#3 Luke 1:34-38 — *Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do." "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; 'may it happen to me as you have said.'" And the angel left her.*

Pray the "Our Father" for those God is calling to be a priest.

#4 Luke 1:39-56 — *The angel Gabriel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a son even though Elizabeth was old and barren (she couldn't have children). "For with God nothing is impossible." Mary went to visit Elizabeth. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" Elizabeth knew that Mary was pregnant with the Son of God.*

Pray the "Hail Mary" for those who really want to have a baby but aren't able to.

#5 Matthew 1:20-21 — *Joseph was a carpenter. He and Mary had entered into an agreement to be married. Joseph loved Mary but when he found out she was going to have a baby, he decided to quietly call off their marriage. The angel Gabriel visited Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife...She will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins."*

Pray the "Glory Be" for those who are afraid.

#6 Luke 2:1-2 — *At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When the first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria.*

Pray the "Glory Be" for the leaders in your community, state, country, and world.

#7 Luke 2:3-4 — *Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David.*

Pray "Glory Be" for your relatives that have died.

#8

Luke 2:5 — Mary traveled with Joseph to Bethlehem. It was almost time for her baby to be born.

Pray the “Hail Mary” for those who are traveling.

#9

Luke 2:7b — The city of Bethlehem was so crowded with all the people who had come to pay their taxes that there was not one room left for Mary and Joseph. *“There was no room for them to stay in the inn.”*

Pray the Guardian Angel prayer for those who don’t have a home to sleep in.

#10

Luke 2:7 — *Mary gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger (the place where animals eat from). Jesus didn't have a crib.*

Pray the “Hail Mary” for children who do not have a bed to sleep in.

#11

Luke 2:8-9 — *There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid.*

Pray the “Our Father” for those who grow and raise our food.

#12

Luke 2:10-12 — *The angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born — Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.*

Pray the “Hail Mary” for those who don’t have warm clothes to wear.

#13

Luke 2:13-14 — *Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”*

Pray the “Hail Mary” for your friends.

#14

Luke 2:15-16 — *When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.*

Pray the “Our Father” for those who don’t know who Jesus is.

#15 Luke 2:17-20 — *When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.*

Pray the "Glory Be" for the leaders in our church, especially for our priests, bishops, and Pope.

#16 Luke 2:21 — *A week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived.*

Pray the "Hail Mary" for those who care for the sick.

#17 Luke 2:25-35 — *Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah (Jesus). When Simeon came into the temple, he saw Mary, Joseph, and the baby. Happily he took the baby in his arms and praised God. Simeon knew that the Savior had come.*

Pray the "Our Father" for teachers, especially those who teach others about Jesus.

#18 Luke 2:36-38 — *Also in the temple was Anna. She never left the temple but worshiped God day and night. When she saw Jesus, she thanked God and she told all who would listen that the Messiah had come!*

Pray for the "Our Father" for those who report the news.

#19 Matthew 2:1-2 — *Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."*

Pray the "Glory Be" for those who help people in need.

#20 Matthew 2:3-6 — *When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.' "*

Pray the "Our Father" for peace in our world.

#21 Matthew 2:7-10 — *So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him." And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.*

Pray the "Hail Mary" for those who are lonely and want someone to visit them.

#22 Matthew 2:11 — *(The visitors from the East) went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.*

Pray the "Hail Mary" for children that don't have enough to eat.

#23 Matthew 2:12 — *Then (the visitors from the East) returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.*

Pray the Guardian Angel prayer for those who protect us, like firefighters and policemen.

#24 Matthew 2:13 — *After the (visitors from the East) had left, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt.*

Pray the "Hail Mary" for parents, especially your parents.

#25 Matthew 2:14-15 — *Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died. This was done to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "I called my Son out of Egypt."*

Pray the "Our Father" for those who don't have a job and are trying to find one.

#26 Matthew 2:19-21 — *After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go back to the land of Israel, because those who tried to kill the child are dead." So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went back to Israel.*

Pray the "Hail Mary" for those in the military and their families.

#27 Matthew 2:23 — *But when Joseph heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judea, he was afraid to go there. He was given more instructions in a dream, so he went to the province of Galilee and made his home in a town named Nazareth. And so what the prophets had said came true: "He will be called a Nazarene."*

Pray the Guardian Angel prayer for those who have recently moved.

#28 Luke 2:11 — *And tomorrow we celebrate Christmas.*

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you:
He is Christ the Lord.

Pray the "Glory Be" to thank God for loving us so much!

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