

SOME PARTICULAR ADVENT FEAST DAYS

- **December 6: St. Nicholas Day.**

- **Learn** about this 3rd Century bishop at [The St. Nicholas Center](#).
- Have kids **put their shoes/stockings by the fireplace**/front door the night before. Fill them with chocolate coins, candy canes, fruit, nuts or other gifts.
- Make a homemade **card to mail your own bishop**, assuring him of your prayers.
- As patron of bakers, honor St. Nicholas by **starting your Christmas baking** – and in the spirit of the saint’s hidden generosity, **secretly deliver** the goodies to neighbors.
- As patron of children, honor St. Nick by asking the **children’s hospital** if there is anything they need – toys, cozy stockings, or hospitality items for the families of sick kids.
- **Recite ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas**. Add a [St. Nicholas prayer](#) to mealtime grace.

- **December 8: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

- [Review this teaching](#) of our faith and **explain** it to your kids.
- **Place an image of Mary on your dining table**. **Light a white candle** as a symbol of her purity. Light as many of **your family’s Baptismal candles** as you can find: a symbol of how God cleanses our souls in Baptism so we, too, can welcome Jesus with pure hearts.
- Do an [examination of conscience](#) and [act of contrition](#). Renew your commitment to **living like Mary**, with a heart open to the Holy Spirit and his promptings at all times.
- **Clean your house together**, reflecting on Mary’s clean heart ready to receive Jesus.
- **Wear white** and/or eat **white food** (white cake etc.) as a symbol of Mary’s purity.
- Learn the [history](#) of how the Immaculate Conception became **patroness of the U.S.A.**, and **pray a family rosary for our country**.

- **December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe**

- **Learn** the [story](#) of Mary’s apparition to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in the 16th century. This children’s [lesson](#) includes an explanation of the symbolic imagery. Here is a [coloring page](#). This 2 minute [video](#) shows people celebrating in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas.
- **Place an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe** in a prominent place for the day.
- Cook a **Mexican meal** together (such as [tostadas](#) and [guacamole](#)) or order take-out.
- **Ask someone with Mexican heritage** how they celebrate this feast or how to pray the Hail Mary in Spanish. **If you ARE Hispanic, share the richness of your traditions** with

others. Maybe drop off images of Our Lady of Guadalupe to neighbors. Include a small bag of Mexican treats, well-wishes, and a smile. Even non-Catholics won't refuse!

- **For further adult reading**, look at [Science Sees What Mary Saw From Juan Diego's Tilma](#).
- Look here **for more ideas** on how to [celebrate](#).

- **December 13: St. Lucy**

- [Learn](#) about St. Lucy and the traditions associated with her feast day.
- **Serve sweet rolls for breakfast, purchased or [homemade](#)**. A Norwegian tradition has the eldest daughter bring sweet rolls to her family in the morning, wearing a wreath with candles on her head – as the saint brought food to early Christians in the catacombs.
- As Lucy's name means light, **start turning on your Christmas lights** each night beginning on her feast day, eat **dinner by candlelight**, or take a **drive to look at Christmas lights**.
- **Wear red**, the color of those martyred for their faith in Jesus, and ask St. Lucy's prayers for all those in the world **persecuted** for their faith even today.
- As patroness of eyes, honor St. Lucy by **donating used eye-glasses** to the Lions Club, or **look up a local institute for the blind** and learn how you can help.