

PREPARE HIM ROOM

So often, we prepare so much for the parties, gifts, and decorations that come with Christmas, that we forget to prepare for the birth of Jesus. This Advent, we must ask ourselves what we are doing to prepare our HEARTS for Jesus. Let's make room in our hearts and homes for Jesus. He is our King who comes to us in the most humble way possible. In the same way, let us humble ourselves to receive Him and be His presence to others all throughout Advent and Christmas.

Below is a checklist of opportunities for you and your family to "Prepare Him Room" this Advent and Christmas season. (Remember: The Christmas season BEGINS on Dec 25!) Keep this checklist in a space in your home where you will see it each day. You're encouraged to cross off at least a few items. Some of them are simply prayers or reflections.

Scan the QR code at the end of the checklist or visit <https://www.holy-angels.org/copy-of-advent-2024> to visit the underlined links throughout this checklist for more information, prayers, and ideas.

CHARITY

- Donate coats to Knights of Columbus Drive
- Attend the St. Anne's Cookie and Craft Fair, Sunday, Dec 8, 7:30am - 12:30pm in Connor Hall
- Purchase gift(s) from the Holy Angels Giving Tree
- Sign up to volunteer at the Holy Angels Food Pantry
- Volunteer to decorate the church for Christmas
- Prepare cookies, deliver groceries, or shovel a driveway for a neighbor in need
- Do one random act of kindness for a stranger

PRAYER + REFLECTION

- Go to confession (Offered Sat 8:45 until completion and 3:00-3:45pm, Sun 10:30am, Tues 8:30am-completion, Wed 6:30-7:00pm, and Fri 7-8am)
- Attend adoration (Offered Wed 8:30am - Thurs 6:30am)
- Attend mass on a weekday (Offered M-Th 6:30am & 8am, Fri 6:30am & 8:15am)
- Pray the [St. Andrew Novena](#) beginning on Nov 30 and ending on Christmas Eve
- Pray the [Advent Novena](#) from Dec 16 - 24
- Pray a rosary for an end to abortion
- Read the Gospel story of Jesus' birth (Matthew 1-2 or Luke 1-2)
- Choose a night to light your nativity scene only by candlelight and play "[Oh Holy Night](#)" reflecting on your own preparation for the birth of Jesus and his humble entrance as an infant

DECORATION

- Place an Advent wreath at your dining table and light it each night at dinner, praying a [Prayer for Advent](#)
- Place a religious decoration (like a nativity scene, an angel, or a religious sign) outside your home
- Place a star or angel on top of your Christmas tree
- Set up a nativity scene and leave Jesus out until Christmas and the Maji out until the Epiphany on Jan 6
- Leave your Christmas decorations out throughout the Christmas Season, until the Epiphany on Jan 6

CELEBRATION OF FEAST DAYS

- **Dec 6:** Leave shoes out for parents/spouses to leave small gifts on [St. Nicholas' Feast Day](#).
- **Dec 8:** Pray the [Memorare Prayer](#) on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and learn [8 facts about the Immaculate Conception](#)
- **Dec 12:** Prepare a Mexican dish for the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and [read about her apparition to St. Juan Diego](#) and the miracles of her tilma
- **Dec 13:** [Bake saffron buns](#) for the [Feast of St. Lucy](#).

CRAFTS + ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

- Make a [DIY Advent Calendar](#)
- Make hot cocoa and watch a favorite Christmas movie as a family
- Hop in the car one night and take a drive to look at Christmas lights
- Create your own [Advent wreath](#)
- Hang candy canes on the Christmas tree. (They symbolize Jesus as the Good Shepherd and have white for His purity and innocence at birth and red for the blood He shed on the cross.)
- Bake a cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus as part of your Christmas Day celebrations
- Make dinner together as a family on the Feast of the Holy Family, Dec 30
- Visit www.catholicallyear.com/blog/ for more family-focused activities

CELEBRATION OF THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

- **Dec 25:** Attend Christmas Eve or Christmas Day mass for the Nativity of our Lord
- **Dec 26:** Feast of [St. Stephen](#), who died a martyr condemned unjustly
- **Dec 27:** Feast of [St. John the Evangelist](#)
- **Dec 28:** Say a special prayer for the unborn and for children on the Feast of the [Holy Innocents](#)
- **Dec 29:** Feast of [St. Thomas Becket](#), Bishop of Canterbury and martyr
- **Dec 30:** Pray the [Consecration to the Holy Family](#) on the Feast of the [Holy Family](#): Mary, Joseph, and Jesus
- **Dec 31:** Feast of (Pope) [St. Sylvester](#)
- **Jan 1:** Pray a rosary on the [Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God](#)
- **Jan 2:** Feasts of [St. Basil the Great](#) and [St. Gregory Nazianzen](#)
- **Jan 3:** Feast of the [Most Holy Name of Jesus](#). The entire month of January is dedicated to His Holy Name!
- **Jan 4:** Feast of [St. Elizabeth Ann Seton](#), the first person born in the United States to be canonized
- **Jan 5:** Day before Epiphany. We also celebrate [St. John Neumann's](#) feast day on the twelfth day of Christmas

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