



JOYFUL NOISE

OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRIES & OUTREACH
ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON

“In this Season of Advent Mary Immaculate teaches us to listen to the voice of God who speaks in silence; to welcome his Grace that sets us free from sin and from all selfishness in order thereby to taste true joy. Mary, full of grace, pray for us!” - Pope Benedict XVI

Blinked and you may have missed it: the old liturgical year ended on Nov 29th (hence the refreshed newsletter banner), and we immediately kicked off the new year with the first Sunday of Advent on Nov 30th. For the next four weeks (minus a couple days), we'll be focusing on preparing our homes and hearts for the arrival of our Saviour, born in a little manger in Bethlehem. As with the Halloween vs. Holy Souls discussion we explored in Oct and Nov, Dec presents Catholics with an opportunity to hold off on their secular holiday celebrations in favour of traditions that are more compatible with this season of preparation and anticipation. I appreciate that this can be tremendously difficult considering everything in the secular culture has been telling us Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year since Nov 1st, so I'll save you the lecture on the “right” day to put up your tree.

Tree aside, there are lots of things you can do to observe Advent in a more intentional way. Dynamic Catholic and Hallow have both put together comprehensive guides to the season complete with prayers, traditions, and family activities. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to get started.

And before you think I'm a Scrooge, you'll still have plenty of time to celebrate Christmas even if you wait to decorate. Like Easter, Catholics celebrate Christmas as a season, not a day. [Click here](#) to learn why and [here](#) for Christmastide activities beyond boxing day.

+JMJ+

Taylor

How to Advent Formed has released a new four-part video series that explores the rich traditions of Advent and how they help us to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. [Click here](#) to watch the videos and access the small-group discussion guide.

2025 Family Advent Calendars The Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family at the Archdiocese of Montreal has prepared a calendar to accompany families wishing to deepen their spiritual journey toward Christmas. [Click here](#) for the EN translation and [here](#) for the FR.

Jesse Tree Free Printables [Click here](#) to dive deeper into Salvation History with the Jesse Tree this season. [Click here](#) to access a list of activities to couple with the tradition's scripture passages.

Family Advent Planning Guide [Click here](#) for Gather and Pray's 2025 Advent downloadable. I used this guide last year to help plan our family Advent reading and was happy to see they've included reading suggestions again this year.

Dilexi Te ("I have loved you") In case you missed it, Pope Leo XIV's first major document, an apostolic exhortation on love for the poor, was released October 4. [Click here](#) to access the document.

Have a question or need support? Want to share about your parish's ministry initiatives? Just want to chat?



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

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