

2017 Advent Calendar

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3

Put the phone down. Back away, and stay away, all day. REALLY.

4

Pray for someone on the other side of the political divide from you. Try to mean it.

5

Take a beloved's face in your hands, and turn it toward you.

6

In honor of Mary and Joseph, take a minute to pray for some parents you know who are having a tough time of it.

7

Make a blanket-fort. Go inside, in the quiet, and hear what God has to say.

8

Write down three things that still give you hope, even after all you've been through.

9

Look for some beauty out of place in your winter landscape: a flower, sign or face uncovered. Take it as Mary speaking to you.

10

Make like a thief in reverse: sneak a little delight—a cookie, gum from the gas station—into someone's purse or pocket or desk today when they're not looking.

11

Read the news. Feel your despair fully, weeping if necessary. Your sorrow is your longing for good, turned inside out.

12

Go through your house, open all the doors and windows for a few minutes, and invite God inside.

13

Make a holy Christmas list. Address it, then mail it, to God.

14

Sometimes it's OK to veg instead of be alert, and there's more than one way to watch. Get together with someone you like, and watch a Christmas movie tonight.

15

Eat a perfect clementine. Some fruit in your life is ready to pluck. What is it? Ponder, then pick.

16

Do an act of praise that the people who know you best wouldn't expect: dance crazily, sing lustily, study earnestly, believe unquestioningly, even for just a few minutes.

17

Find alone space. Make fists by your side. Raise your head and say NONONO! Until empty. Then say: YES. What is your No for? What is your Yes for?

18

Light a candle and leave it burning in the window all night. Pray that it might guide someone home.

19

Go gaze at the night sky. Draw new constellations with your finger. What do they tell you?

20

Make peace on earth begin with you. Sit somewhere quiet and listen to nothing but your own breathing for 5 minutes.

21

Write down the cast of characters in your head. Who is the hero, the villain? Let God be your playwright, and the kindest voice.

22

Set your alarm for a random time in the middle of the night, and don't look. When it goes off, go look out your window at the creation for a few minutes and ask God to enter it. Then go back to bed.

23

Ask for, and receive, a heart-to-heart hug from at least 3 people. Hold it for six seconds, or more.

24

Spend some time with a crèche or nativity scene today. Look at each character closely. Wonder about their motivations, their fears, and their hopes. Go to church tonight and pray for them.

25

Eat until bursting. Imagine tummy pains as labor pains: what is God birthing through you?

