



An Advent Calendar

ADVENT IN ACTION FOR OUR COMMON HOME

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” (1 John 3:18)

Advent CALENDAR 2023



Please use this calendar to guide your reflection and actions across the weeks Advent and COP28 and into your **Christmas Day celebration**. We invite you to view blank dates as an invitation to honor our world's collective need for simplicity and rest.

Nov 30 *
COP28 Begins

DIC 02
COP28: Pope Francis
Pacific religious
leaders

DIC 03
Pope Francis
Departs Dubai
First Sunday of
Advent

DIC 04
Calendar icon

DIC 05
COP28: Catholic
Petition to COP28
Presidency

DIC 09
Arrow icon


DIC 10
Second Sunday of Advent

DIC 08
Feast of the Immaculate Conception


DIC 14
Star icon



Invitation from Laudato Si' Movement:

In 2015, inspired by Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*, our movement found its namesake. Two months ago, Pope Francis released *Laudate Deum* ahead of his travels to COP28 in Dubai, emphasizing the need for human unity to accelerate the energy transition. Amidst growing division, we believe in our collective power to bridge gaps during COP28 and the Advent season, advocating for a world we desire for ourselves and our children. 

About the Advent Calendar:

A curated blend of calendar touchstones, Gospel reflections, and calls to action, the Advent Calendar links the contemplative spirit of the Advent Season with the advocacy imperative of COP28. Crafted urgently as people of faith and global citizens, this calendar and associated reflections is a unique fusion of spiritual and prophetic engagement. 

Contributions:



Antonio Caschetto from our spiritual haven in Assisi, Italy, shaped our reflections; Advocacy Director Lindlyn Moma inspired calls to action as she gears up to travel from South Africa to COP28 in Dubai; Eco-Conversion Manager Suzana Moreira authored our daily prayer and provided the foundation for this resource from her home in Brazil. Our communications team, from across Latin America, collaborated to actualize our collective and global wisdom into this document—a gift from the Laudato Si' Movement to you.



Remember: as COP28 begins, unfolds, and concludes, view prayer in this resource not as an abstract exercise but as a call to action. It's not just a document; it's a reflective guide for an adventure, creating space in the manger for kings, the impoverished, animal life alike, and most of all, the Divine.

Let 's begin.



A Daily Advent Prayer

We invite you to pray this across the Advent season

Dear God, our Creator,

You revealed your love to us and Creation once for all through the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. By the grace of Your Creator Spirit, teach us to celebrate our faith in the Incarnation that took place in Creation.

Dear Jesus, Savior of Creation, we ask that You may be born in us, once again, as we seek to cultivate hope for our common home. As Your followers, teach us to care for the dignity of all human beings and all Creation, now and in the future.

We pray for today's victims of global warming, both human and nonhuman.

We pray for more ambition in the energy transition, in this country and globally.

We pray for our governments, and especially for those at COP28, to negotiate a global and fair phase-out of fossil fuels.

And, finally, we pray for the courage to be prophets of our time, calling upon our leaders to bear fruits of ecological justice after COP28.

Come Emmanuel! Make us ever more hopeful people for a hopeful planet. Let us be part of Your light of hope to the world. **Amen.**

Advent

CALENDAR 2023



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Nov **30** ★

COP28 Begins

DEC **01** 

Pope Francis
Arrives in Dubai for
COP28

DEC **02** 

COP28: Pope Francis
meets Pacific religious
and state leaders

DEC **03** 

★ **Pope Francis**
Departs Dubai
★ First Sunday of
Advent

DEC **04**



DEC **05** 

COP28: Catholic
Petition to COP28
Presidency

DEC **06**



DEC **07**



DEC **08** 

Feast of
the Immaculate
Conception

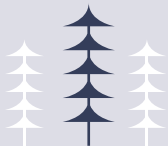
DEC **09**



DEC **10** 

Second Sunday
of Advent

DEC **11**



DEC **12** 

★ **COP28** Concludes
★ Feast of Our Lady
Guadalupe

DEC **13** 

Invitation
to Donate

DEC **14**



DEC **15**



DEC **16**



DEC **17** 

Third Sunday
of Advent

DEC **18**



DEC **19**



DEC **20** 

Invitation
to Donate

DEC **21**



DEC **22**



DEC **23**



DEC **24**

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

DEC **25** ★

Christmas Day

DECEMBER 3

First Sunday of Advent

“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.’”
(Mark 13:33)

Read. Today, the Laudato Si' Journey begins again with the first Sunday of Advent— a journey on the footsteps of the Word of God, read in the light of our commitment to ecological conversion.



It starts in a peculiar way: this Sunday's gospel offers the last part of the "eschatological discourse" found in chapter 13 of the Gospel of Mark, which began with the image of the destroyed temple. The passage for this Sunday immediately follows the beautiful image of the fig tree, the ever-present invitation in Jesus' message to contemplate creation.

Both images in this passage are drawn from daily life and teach us the grounding attitude for Advent and, ultimately, everyday life. "Be watchful, be alert!"

is the direct and clear invitation of this first Sunday of Advent. This is an invitation to keep our eyes open, to live our present as it deserves, with attention and contemplation. Faced with this, the first thing to do is to stay awake! Just as we will see the shepherds keeping watch, outside the Nativity scene.

Explore the entire Gospel reflection by clicking on this [link](#).



Reflect. Consider how staying mindful of ecological nuances, inspired by the call to be vigilant and awake, can deepen our connection to Advent and drive community action in the climate crisis. How might heightened awareness foster a collective response to urgent ecological challenges?



Act. Remain attentive to the ecological challenges of our time. Sign Pope Francis' COP28 Petition. This petition implores world leaders to view [COP28](#) not as just another conference, but as a pivotal turning point between “the destroyed temple” and the “fig tree.”



DECEMBER 10

Second Sunday of Advent

“John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” **(Mark 1:4)**

Read. This Sunday's Gospel introduces us to the figure of John the Baptist, an icon of the person who approaches the God who is born. It's interesting to note how he is the last prophet, a link between the Old and New Testaments.



How much we need prophetic people and gestures! There is no law without prophets. A prophet is not someone who predicts the future; those are fortune-tellers or charlatans. Rather, the prophet, even today, helps us read the present, understand life around us in the light of God's word.

Mark's Gospel begins with the figure of John the Baptist, depicted in the desert baptizing and proclaiming the baptism. In the thirst for justice, there is immediately sister water.

In the desert of silence and toil, there is a baptism that gives life. "Repent!" is the urgent proclamation of John the Baptist.

Change your path; you're getting it all wrong, he seems to be saying. It's not a pleasant announcement when someone reminds us that we're getting everything wrong! Think of Pope Francis and his proclamation of conversion to integral ecology; how much we need conversion! And how difficult it is to be understood, to be heard.

Let's convert today, as was already mentioned last Sunday; today is the *kairos*, meaning the opportune moment. We don't have to wait for future times; just turn our gaze, convert, and the kingdom of God is here.

Explore the entire Gospel reflection by clicking on this [link](#).

Reflect. How can we embrace the present moment as the opportune time to convert our gaze and actively contribute to the realization of the kingdom of God in our approach to the climate crisis?

Act. Learning is a key part of repenting, growing, and committing to ecological conversion. Read this [primer on science and the planetary crisis](#) to better understand why now is the opportune time to act.



DECEMBER 17

Third Sunday of Advent

"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

(John 1:26-27)

Read. Like last Sunday, today the central figure is John the Baptist, an icon of Advent. He engages in dialogue with those who venture into the desert to find him, drawn by the power of his proclamation.



John, who once announced with cries in the desert a baptism of conversion, now confronts his own expectation, his own self, the sincerity of his humility, and he still has much to tell us about living faith and our relationship with God.

Like an eagle soaring and fixing its gaze on prey even from a great distance, John's text reveals the word to us, gradually unveiling more precise aspects. The word is light for every person, beyond religions, beyond cultures and origins. But often in our world, this light is not recognized nor welcomed.

Why don't we welcome it? Why do we know it but not recognize it? For those who receive it, the power is granted to become children of God.

The word of truth not only informs but transforms us into reflections of God. Each individual becomes the very word they embrace, shaping their likeness to it.

"In your midst stands one whom you do not know." Among you stands someone you don't recognize. These concluding words from John's testimony seem to speak to each of us. Much like the Pharisees' envoys who question God and His prophets, we too can struggle to know and recognize God among us—in the eyes of our fellow humans or within the beauty of creation. He is here with us, and none of us can claim to be worthy even of untying the strap of His sandal.

Explore the entire Gospel reflection by clicking on this link.

Reflect. How does our difficulty in recognizing the transformative truth, as emphasized in John's testimony, parallel our challenges in acknowledging and addressing the climate crisis?

Act: As we attempt to recognize transformative truth, let's channel this awareness into action post-COP28. Use your voice, however humble or eloquent, to write a letter or a prayer to your local newspaper.

DECEMBER 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her."

(Luke 1:38)

Read. We are nearing the end of the Laudato Si' Journey, accompanying the Sundays of Advent towards the Lord's Nativity, entering the intimacy of a home. The scene of the Annunciation provides an excellent opportunity to prepare our hearts for the upcoming Christmas scene.



Mary's affirmative response initiates a new creation, serving as a model for genuine discipleship. This archetype is for all of us who heed the Word, enabling God to come into the world, making us both mothers and brothers to Jesus. This "yes" happens "in the sixth month" since the conception of John the Baptist, at a time when the promise is not fully realized.

The sixth month, akin to the sixth day of creation, represents incompleteness. Our commitment to God's plan, rooted in our freedom, has the potential to turn that incompleteness into fulfillment.

Mary's first comfort in her unease comes

with the reassurance to "not be afraid" and the promise that she will "conceive, give birth, and name." This new creation, enabled by the human 'yes,' serves as a corrective response to Adam and Eve's initial failure.

Each of us today can say "Yes!" There is no need to wait for an indefinite future. Simply open our eyes, be vigilant as we were asked at the beginning of Advent, and realize that there is a Gabriel," enabling the Word to operate in the world. Let's revisit the Garden of Eden, where we hear God, the creator, inviting us to nurture and protect.

Explore the entire Gospel reflection by clicking on this [link](#).


Reflect. How does the profound connection between Mary's affirmative response and the promise of new creation inspire reflection on our role in addressing the urgent environmental challenges of the climate crisis?

Act: In the aftermath of COP28, where global efforts to address the climate crisis unfold, say "yes" to personal and collective steps. Discuss a lifestyle change with your loved ones to foster a more sustainable environment.

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

“What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:3-5)

Read. Here we stand, concluding our journey at the entrance of Bethlehem's cave! Today, we delve into John's prologue, shedding light on this unassuming space and unraveling its mystery. The text can be quite intricate, occasionally challenging to fully grasp. In a similar vein, today's scene is no less perplexing: God, in all His vastness, made the choice to strip Himself of divine glory, embracing human nature. Yet, remarkably, we failed to offer Him a place even in the inn! 

God spoke, bringing forth everything—light, sky, day, night, and waters. In the creation of man, He bestowed upon us the ability to comprehend and appreciate His handiwork. Unfortunately, we often overlook this gift of understanding creation. Imagine a piece of beautiful music unheard; it loses its beauty and purpose. Likewise, our indifference runs the risk of rendering the entire splendor of Creation meaningless.

Think about all the breathtaking sunsets we've overlooked, engrossed in our TVs or phones. How many mesmerizing starry skies have gone unnoticed? Creation is an objective concept; it's through the Word that humans discern, interpret, and find meaning in creation, searching for the Creator's signature. This responsibility is unique to humans. Our destiny is intertwined with this Word, shedding light on the profound beauty of the events in the Bethlehem manger.

Perhaps, as we wrap up this weeks-long journey, our Christmas takes on a sweeter taste in the understanding of this Word.

We wish you a heartfelt **Merry Christmas!**

Laudato Si'!

Explore the entire Gospel reflection by clicking on this [link](#).



Community Connection

This Advent guide is only one of many resources that we've authored and Laudato Si' Movement is an evolving work in progress. If you want to get involved with Laudato Si' Movement, or if you're making things happen where you live, we'd love to hear from you.

Join a [Laudato Si' Circle](#) or find us on social media

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LAUDATO SI'
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Catholics for Our Common Home