

## 2009 ADVENT CALENDAR

# Reflecting on a Year of Change, Looking Forward with Hope

### Week 1:

- Listen to a favorite Christmas carol. Are the lyrics not only a song, but also a prayer?
- Live simply so others can simply live. How will you have a simpler Christmas this year? Consider coordinating with a friend or family member to exchange charitable donations in lieu of gifts.
- Millions of Americans remain separated from their families due to our broken immigration system. What can you do so that more families can celebrate the holidays together?

### Week 3:

- The third week of Advent is one of Joy. *“Joy is the true gift of Christmas...We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness.”* –Pope Benedict XVI
- Write special notes to distant relatives and forgotten friends.
- World leaders are working in Copenhagen to negotiate a global climate treaty. Take an action to shrink your “carbon footprint.”

### Week 2:

- In celebration of St. Nicholas Day (12/6), how can you show “secret generosity” to loved ones and strangers?
- On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (12/8), how can you mirror Mary’s willingness and courage?
- Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (12/12). Almost 500 years ago, Mary appeared in an unexpected way. How does Mary appear to you in persons you might not expect?
- The celebration of Hanukkah begins (12/12): *“As Christians and Jews, following the example of the faith of Abraham, we are called to be a blessing to the world. This is the common task awaiting us.”* –Pope John Paul II

### Week 4:

- As our homes and neighborhoods are illuminated with Christmas lights—who is the light in your life?
- In this time of treats, fast. Let God fill your emptiness.
- The shortest and darkest days of the year occur this week. Reach out to someone who could use some light.
- Prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ through Eucharist and time with family and friends!

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