

## Ideas for Living Joyfully: Forty Days of Celtic Advent & the Twelve Days of Christmas 2023-2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Practice Grace. No need to do them all or every day.</b>  <b>Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart!</b>  <i>The Nativity journey – Place Mary and Joseph in one corner of the room; the wise men in another corner; the shepherds, another. Keep Jesus hidden. Set up the stable with animals, and enjoy helping each figure journey to Bethlehem.</i></p>			<p><b>November 15</b>            Visit a beautiful spot in or near your home. How is God preparing you for Christ's birth?</p>	<p><b>16</b>            Call a friend &amp; tell them one thing you appreciate about them.</p>	<p><b>17</b>            Give thanks for one thing you enjoy in your work</p>	<p><b>18</b>            Spend the evening without screens or internet. What will you do?</p>
<p><b>19</b>            Say Hi to a person standing on the fringes.  <b>Move Mary &amp; Joseph closer.</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>            Take a loved one on a walk, arm in arm or hand in hand.</p>	<p><b>21</b>            Smile at people you see, whether you know them or not, and enjoy their smile!</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>CS Lewis Day</b>            Go on a nature walk and look for God's creatures.  <b>Aslan Lives!!</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>            List what you are thankful for, tell God, tell each other. Start a gratitude list.</p>	<p><b>24</b>            Make a meal for someone in need or visit someone who is lonely</p>	<p><b>25</b>            Give someone you love a long hug</p>
<p><b>26</b>            Welcome a new person at church.  <b>Move Mary &amp; Joseph closer</b></p>	<p><b>27</b>            Pick up trash you see in your neighborhood.</p>	<p><b>28</b>            Turn off recorded music and sing some favorite songs with loved ones</p>	<p><b>29</b>            Write a gratitude note to a family member or friend, hide it in their pocket or lunch</p>	<p><b>30</b>            Write notes to singles and elders, encouraging them, so they know they are not alone.</p>	<p><b>December 1</b>            Color a picture for a child in your life</p>	<p><b>2</b>            Take a break from the internet and look out the window. Just look. What do you see?</p>
<p><b>3</b>            Kneel down when you greet &amp; talk to a child  <b>Four-week Advent begins</b></p>	<p><b>4</b>            Take a friend to tea (or coffee), leave the smartphone in your bag</p>	<p><b>5</b>            Color a mandala. Pray for someone as you do.  <b>Move the Wise Men closer.</b></p>	<p><b>6</b>            Send a loved one on a treasure hunt Today. Give them clues &amp; giggle a lot</p>	<p><b>7</b>            Say Hi to people behind the counters. Wish them a good day.</p>	<p><b>8</b>            Notice the eye-color of people close to you and <b>marvel at their beauty</b></p>	<p><b>9</b>            Light candles for whatever place or situation breaks your heart and pray.</p>
<p><b>10</b>  <b>Move Mary &amp; Joseph closer.</b>            What journey are you on?</p>	<p><b>11</b>            Take a walk and enjoy the Christmas lights</p>	<p><b>12</b>            Share some favourite music that makes you smile</p>	<p><b>13</b>            Enjoy grilled cheese and tomato soup or another favorite comfort dish</p>	<p><b>14</b>            Read a story out loud to your friend, child, parent, or spouse</p>	<p><b>15</b>            Notice the really small things in life, like bugs or dust bunnies</p>	<p><b>16</b>            Mail a note to someone. Describe how they are gift to you!</p>
<p><b>17</b>  <b>The "O" Antiphons: Wisdom (Isa. 11:2-3) &amp; Laudate Sunday</b>            Read Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55. Light a pink candle for <b>JOY</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>Lord (Isa 33:22)</b>            Ask God how he wants to be the Lord of your life. Listen.  <b>Move the Wise Men closer.</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>Root of Jesse (Isa 11:10)</b>            Write memories of God's faithfulness in your life on paper ornaments &amp; hang them on the tree.</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>Key of David (Rev. 3:7)</b>            What door of your life do you need God to open &amp; bring grace? God has the key to every door.</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>Morning Star (Isa 9:2)</b>            At dawn, pray for God's light to shine in a place or situation breaking your heart.</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>King of Nations (Isa 9:6)</b>            Listen to "For Unto us a Child is Born" What does it mean for Christ to come again? <b>Move Mary &amp; Joseph almost to the stable</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>Emmanuel (Isa 7:14)</b>            How is God with you? How are you God's presence to others?  <b>Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (all the verses!)</b></p>
<p><b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve</b>            Where have you experienced God's Joy this Advent?  <b>Mary &amp; Joseph enter the stable.</b></p>	<p><b>The Birth!</b>            Adopt someone who needs a family or be adopted if you need one.  <i>Put Jesus in the Nativity; add the Shepherds, too.</i></p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>St. Stephen's Day The First Martyr</b>  <b>Genesis 1:3</b>  <b>The Twelve Days of Christmas Begins!</b></p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>Isaiah 58:10</b>            Bring flowers to someone who needs their day brightened.</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>Feast of the Holy Innocents</b>  <b>Matt. 19:14</b>            Pray for children around the world</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>Isa 60:19</b>            Notice the really small things in life.  <b>The Magi move closer.</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>Ps 43:3</b>            Write a list of who and what you are thankful for from 2023.</p>
<p><b>31</b>  <b>Matt 5:14-16</b>            Take a moment to be kind to yourself: plan a day of rest and do something you enjoy.</p>	<p><b>January 1</b>  <b>John 8:12</b>            What are your hopes for 2024? Pray for God's wisdom.</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>1 Peter 2:9</b>            Write a thank you note and mail it.</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>Romans 8</b>            Buy the next person in line coffee.</p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>Ps 139:11-12</b>            Choose 3 healthful habits to practice for this New Year.</p>	<p><b>January 5 - Epiphany Eve</b>  <b>January 6 – Epiphany</b>  <b>Luke 4:1-21</b>  <b>Move the Wise Men to the stable.</b>            Bless your house by chalking above the front door "20+C+M+B+24". This means the year (2024) with <b>Christus Mansionem Benedicat</b>, "Christ Bless this House," and the sign of the cross. <b>CMB</b> also stands for the three wise kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.</p>	

**How we spend our days is how we spend our lives.** Annie Dillard

Calendar created with joy by Susan Forshey at [ContemplativeCottage.com](http://ContemplativeCottage.com). Please share freely.