




THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA



# December

# 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><i>In October 2021, the Conference of the Franciscan Family—a group made up of the leaders of all three orders of Franciscans—called all Franciscans to join in the Centenary which will commemorate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of several significant events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi. We began 2023 with the celebration of the Later Rule and will conclude with Christmas at Greccio. During this Advent season, we will examine the story of the celebration of Christmas at Greccio and how we can apply the lessons learned from this event to our everyday lives. Follow along with these daily action steps and read/print the individual <a href="#">weekly reflections</a> to learn more.</i></p>					<p><i>Note: As we reflect on the story of Greccio, we encourage you to pull out your nativity scene, but refrain from adding the figures at once. We will add figures to the crèche throughout Advent.</i></p>	<p>Unpack your Christmas crèche and set up the stable and the <b>empty</b> manger. The first Christmas in Greccio took place in a cave. Consider making a cave for your nativity.</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>Think about the people in your life whom you love with “special affection.” Send a letter or Christmas card to someone and tell them how they improved your life.</p>	<p>Think of ways that you can ready your heart for the coming feast while you make holiday preparations. Make a list of things you can do to keep Jesus at the center of your holidays.</p>	<p>Each time you go shopping, buy an extra nonperishable food item, and place it in a grocery bag. When your bag is full, take it to your local food bank.</p>	<p>Research nativity scenes from other countries and consider buying one for school, work, or home.</p>	<p>Call a friend or family member who is far away or visit someone you haven’t seen lately. Give the gift of your presence.</p>	<p>Light a candle and say a prayer for peace in our world.</p>	<p>Take a few minutes today to make a list of five things you are grateful for. Thank God for these gifts.</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Place your nativity figures of Mary and Joseph far away from your manger; each day move them a little closer to your crèche scene.</p>	<p>Consider giving a donation to an organization in your community who cares for those experiencing economic hardships.</p>	<p>Go for an evening walk and look at the stars. Consider inviting a friend to join you.</p>	<p>Put your animal figures in your Christmas crèche. Listen to “Away in a Manger” or “Silent Night” and sing along.</p>	<p>Spend a few minutes in prayer before your Christmas crèche. Imagine the baby Jesus lying on the hay.</p>	<p>Reflect on your favorite childhood memory of Christmas. Write about it in your journal or share it with a friend and ask them to share one of theirs.</p>	<p>Light a candle and reflect on your life. Write about three gifts that you bring to the world.</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>Complete an Advent Examination of Conscience like the one found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Participate in the revolution of tenderness. Make blessing bags to keep in your car and share with those experiencing homelessness or food insecurity.</p>	<p>Buy a pack of diapers or a carton of formula and donate it to a family shelter in your community.</p>	<p>Put the shepherds in your crèche. Spend some time in quiet reflection about how you can meet the Christ child with love, gratitude, and awe.</p>	<p>Start your Magi figures on the journey. Pray for the nations of our world desperately in need of peace and healing.</p>	<p>Place Mary and Joseph in your Christmas crèche. Consider sharing a homemade treat with a neighbor.</p>	<p>Place baby Jesus in your crèche. Spend <b>some quiet time in front of your crèche and thank God for the gift of the Babe of Bethlehem.</b></p>
<div> <div> <div>25</div> <div> <p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b></p> <p>May the Christ child be born in your heart again the way it was 800 years ago in Greccio. Go out into the world to share the good news!</p> </div> </div> <div>  <p>Merry Christmas!</p> </div> </div>						