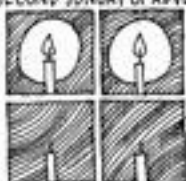
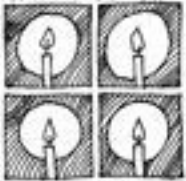


Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent!

Twenty-eight days to grow in following Jesus

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  NOVEMBER 27	NOV 28 MON  Let "keep awake" from Mark's gospel be your slogan this Advent. Watch for signs of God's stirring work in the world and in your life.	NOV 29 TUE Advent: a good time to get serious about prayer. Set aside some time each day. It can be a little or a lot of time. Try it. See what happens.  INCLUDE in your Advent calendar!	NOV 30 WED Today is the feast of St. Andrew. You have to wonder if this first disciple knew what he was getting into when he followed Jesus. Do any of us? 	DEC 1 THU Today is World AIDS Day. Pray for all those living with AIDS and for those who care for them. 
DEC 2 FRI Get ready for this coming Sunday. Read the gospel ahead of time. It's Mark 1:4-6. It introduces you to John the Baptist who brings new meaning to the word "eccentric". 	DEC 3 SAT Make your Christmas gift list. Start with what you'll ask for, but what you'll give. Include handmade gifts. Include people who will be totally surprised to be on this wonderful list. 	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  DECEMBER 4	DEC 5 MON Make the following time commitment: Let courtesy and patience be your watchwords this season. It won't be easy. It's really easy waiting. 	DEC 6 TUE Today is the feast of St. Nicholas, a good day to remember children in need around the world. Pray for them. Make a gift of money to help them. Volunteer with a ministry that supports and encourages them. 
DEC 7 WED Natural disasters, violence and political turbulence have driven many people throughout the world from their homes. Pray for them. Pray for peace. 	DEC 8 THU Wake up to joy and laughter. They are God's gifts. Make someone smile today. 	DEC 9 FRI Get ready for this coming Sunday. Read the gospel ahead of time. It's John 1:4-6, 19-28. Imagine that you were asked the question that John the Baptist was asked. How would you answer? What would you have to say? WHO ARE YOU?	DEC 10 SAT This year in church, we read the Gospel of Mark. It has 16 chapters. If you read one chapter each day, you'll finish in Christmas which will be a gift to yourself. 	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  DECEMBER 11
DEC 12 MON Alarmed by environmental challenges? Pray for this good earth God has given us. Ask for the wisdom and will to conserve it. Act on your prayer. 	DEC 13 TUE Worried about world hunger? Here's what Mother Teresa said: "If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one." 	DEC 14 WED This is a lonely season for many. Visit or write or call someone you know who is alone. 	DEC 15 THU Cultivate hospitality. So much more than food and decor, it's an open welcoming heart. 	DEC 16 FRI Get ready for this coming Sunday. Read the gospel ahead of time. It's Luke 1:24-38. Think about what it means for Mary to say "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." 
DEC 17 SAT It's a noisy season and a noisy world. Find a quiet place in your home, at school, or at church, and sit in silence. 	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  DECEMBER 18	DEC 19 MON It's tempting to try to box God into a tiny corner - grace before meals, or how we Sunday morning. Wake up to God's presence in all aspects of your life, even and especially the messy ones. We all have them. 	DEC 20 TUE Hymn 575, stanza 5: How shall we love the Holy, hidden Being. If we love not the world which this world made? Bind us in thine own love for better seeing thy Word made flesh, and in a manger laid. Thy kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done. Text by Laurence Irving 	DEC 21 WED Today is the feast of St. Thomas of doubting fame. Are you struggling with questions? Follow the advice of Rilke the poet: Let them go, and live the answers instead. 
DEC 22 THU Take five minutes to ponder this Advent thought: In the tender compassion of our God, this dawn from on high shall break upon us. (That would be Jesus) to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. (That would be us) from Carole N. The Song of Zechariah 	DEC 23 FRI Be awake to beauty today - in the world and in the people around you. 	DEC 24 SAT "Visit us with thy Salvation, the words we sing in hymn 575. Imagine that! On this Christmas Eve, think about what it means to greet such a Guest." WELCOME!	O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord 	