

TIPS FOR KEEPING ADVENT



The ideas and suggestions that follow may seem radical at first. But even if you choose to practice just one or two during this Advent season, your celebration of Christmas will be greatly enhanced.

- ❖ Display the family Bible in a special place as a reminder that we are preparing to celebrate the Word made flesh.
- ❖ If you put up your Manger set during Advent, wait until Christmas Eve to place the baby Jesus figure in the scene. Have a little procession on Christmas Eve and give the honor of bearing the Christ child to the youngest member of the family. Do not introduce the Magi until after Christmas. Set them at a distance from the scene and move them a little closer to the manger each day leading up to Epiphany.
- ❖ Make sending Christmas cards a family celebration, not an obligation. Every card sent should contain a handwritten, personal note and be signed by all family members.
- ❖ Save and don't open the Christmas cards you receive during Advent. Open a few on Christmas Eve, then a few more each evening during the Christmas season.
- ❖ If you decorate the outside of your home for Christmas, do the work during Advent but do not turn on the lights until Christmas Eve.
- ❖ Wait until after the third Sunday of Advent to set up your Christmas tree. Enrich the last few days of Advent by decorating the tree during that time, but do not light up the tree until Christmas Eve.
- ❖ Simplify the gift-giving process. Give more homemade and symbolic gifts.
- ❖ Play Advent music in your home. There is a lot of beautiful music available that will enhance this season. Save the Christmas music for the Christmas season.
- ❖ Do not go to Christmas parties during Advent. Plan your own festivities for the time between Christmas and Epiphany.