

Ideas for Living Joyfully

Forty Days of Celtic Advent & the Twelve Days of Christmas 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Follow the joy. You don't need to do something everyday. Use these ideas as inspiration!</i></p>	<p>November 15 Determine where the nativity will be placed in your house. Fill it with the animals and the empty manger.</p>	<p>16 Place Mary & Joseph far from the stable but where you can see them. Start them on their journey to the nativity.</p>	<p>17 Place the Magi farther from the nativity and marvel at their trust, led only by a star, to find their King.</p>	<p>18 Pray for the world, for peace, hope, and love.</p>	<p>19 Get out some colored pencils and color a mandala. Pray for someone as you do.</p>	<p>20 Write notes to singles and elders, encouraging them and so they know they are not alone.</p>
<p>21 Text or email a loved one a favorite memory of them. Mary & Joseph move closer.</p>	<p>22 CS Lewis Day Appreciate an animal companion today and look for the Deeper Magic! Aslan Lives!!</p>	<p>23 If you are out, wave at people you see. Don't let distance and masks impede acknowledgement.</p>	<p>24 List what you are thankful for, tell God, tell each other. Start a gratitude list.</p>	<p>25 Invite a single person to join you for a meal in person or via Zoom.</p>	<p>26 Reach out to a person whom you haven't seen recently.</p>	<p>27 Make a tasty something and give it away.</p>
<p>28 Four-week Advent begins How is Jesus being born in you?</p>	<p>29 Read or Tell stories to loved ones.</p>	<p>30 Turn off recorded music and sing some favorite songs. The Magi move closer.</p>	<p>December 1 Write a gratitude note to a family member. Hide it in their pocket.</p>	<p>2 Call a friend & tell them one thing you appreciate about them.</p>	<p>3 Enjoy a grilled cheese sandwich & tomato soup or other comfort dish.</p>	<p>4 Take a break from screens and look out the window. What do you see?</p>
<p>5 Tell someone that God loves them. Mary & Joseph move closer.</p>	<p>6 Have tea or a meal with a friend you haven't seen in awhile.</p>	<p>7 Text a word of encouragement to 5 loved ones.</p>	<p>8 Spend time with some favorite artwork. What sparkles? The Magi move closer.</p>	<p>9 Take a break from your smartphone and all screens this evening.</p>	<p>10 Mail a note to someone. Describe how they are gift to the world & you!</p>	<p>11 Light candles for whatever places or situations break your heart.</p>
<p>12 Gaudete Sunday Read Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55. Light a pink candle for JOY and share joys with loved ones. Mary & Joseph move closer.</p>	<p>13 Invite a person to lunch who is new to town.</p>	<p>14 Listen to some favourite music that makes you smile. The Magi move closer.</p>	<p>15 Take a walk and enjoy the Christmas lights.</p>	<p>16 Plan a fun excursion with a little one--what would they enjoy?</p>	<p>17 The "O" Antiphons: Wisdom (Isa. 11:2-3) Who is a voice of wisdom in your life? Thank her or him.</p>	<p>18 Lord (Isa 33:22) Ask God how he wants to be the Lord of your life. Listen. Mary & Joseph move closer.</p>
<p>19 Root of Jesse (Isa 11:10) Write memories of God's faithfulness in your life on paper ornaments & hang them on the tree.</p>	<p>20 Key of David (Rev. 3:7) What door of your life do you need God to open & bring grace? God has the key to every door.</p>	<p>21 Morning Star (Isa 9:2) Pray for God's light to shine in a situation that is breaking your heart. The Magi move closer.</p>	<p>22 King of Nations (Isa 9:6) Listen to Handel's "For Unto us a Child is Born. What does Christ's birth mean?"</p>	<p>23 Emmanuel (Isa 7:14) How is God with you? Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (all the verses!).</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Celebrate with your church. Mary & Joseph enter the stable</p>	<p>25 Feast of the Nativity John 1:1-5 Make a joy list. Put Jesus in the Nativity; add the Shepherds, too</p>
<p>26 St. Stephen's Day The First Martyr The Twelve Days of Christmas Begins! Genesis 1:3</p>	<p>27 Psalm 139:11-12 The Magi journey closer each day</p>	<p>28 The Holy Innocents Pray for children around the world Matt. 19:14</p>	<p>29 Isaiah 58:10 Bring flowers to someone who needs their day brightened.</p>	<p>30 Isa 60:19 Notice the really small things in life.</p>	<p>31 Ps 43:3 Write a list of who and what you are thankful for from 2021.</p>	<p>January 1 Matt 5:14-16 Take a moment to be kind to yourself: plan a day of rest and do something you enjoy.</p>
<p>2 John 8:12 What are your hopes for 2022? Pray for God's wisdom.</p>	<p>3 1 Peter 2:9 Write a thank you note and mail it.</p>	<p>4 Romans 8 Buy the next person in line coffee.</p>	<p>5 Epiphany Eve <i>Luke 4:1-21</i> Move the Magi to the stable</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">January 6 – Epiphany</p> <p>Chalk your lintels and the lintels of friends' houses with the Epiphany blessing 20+C+M+B+22. CMB represents the names of the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), and also the Latin phrase, <i>Christus Mansionem Benedicat</i> – Christ Bless this House!</p>		

How we spend our days is how we spend our lives. Annie Dillard
Calendar created with joy by Susan Forshey at ContemplativeCottage.com. Please share freely.