Advent Acts of Prayer Goodness Chain | Grades-K-8

Cut out each strip to create an Advent paper chain, linking the chains by date beginning December 1. Each day tear off the assigned link and complete the action noted. This may be completed in class or as a family activity.

Before December 1 (the start of the Advent Season):
Create an Advent wreath. You will need some greenery for the wreath, three purple candles and one pink candle. Place the wreath in a prominent location in the classroom or at home.

December 1 ~ First Sunday of Advent:
Read today's Gospel (Mt. 24:37-44), and light the first candle on your Advent wreath, and pray together as a class / family to be alert and aware of God's presence in this Advent Season.

December 2:
Set a goal for money you would like to donate/collect this Advent Season for a Missio project for children.

December 3:
Conduct an “Advent cleaning” in your home. Identify items like clothes, household goods and toys you no longer use. Collect those items and donate them to a local group – maybe your parish’s thrift shop – that distributes them to people in need. You could also consider holding a yard sale and donating the money to your Missio project.

December 4:
Make a list of all of the things you like most about each of your family members. Share the list with them today. Thank God for the gift of family.

December 5:
Spend time as a family deciding one way you can save money each week. Contribute those funds to your Missio project.

December 6:
Today is the Feast Day of St. Nicholas. Learn more about this saint at the library, or through an Internet search with the help of your family / teacher. You can also learn more at www.missio.org/resources.

December 7:
Create your own good deed for today. In the space below, write down what you will do.
December 8 ~ Second Sunday of Advent:
Read today’s Gospel (Mt. 3:1-12), light the first and second purple candles on your Advent wreath, and pray together as a class / family to listen for God's voice and to do God's will for us.

December 9:
Today is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pray the World Mission Rosary.

December 10:
Do an extra household chore today ~ without being asked.

December 11:
Make or buy a Christmas card for your favorite teacher. Bring the card to school and put it on his/her desk. Then pray for him/her. Also pray for all catechists who teach about Jesus in the Missions.

December 12:
Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Do a library or Internet search with your parents’ / teachers’ help to find out why the day is so important. You can also learn more at www.missio.org/resources.

December 13:
Ask your extended family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins) to consider donating to your Missio project. Remember, even the smallest donation can make a difference.

December 14:
Make some Christmas cookies and donate them to a local soup kitchen for their Sunday dinner.

December 15 ~ Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday):
Read today's Gospel (Mt. 11:2-11), light two purple candles and the pink candle on your Advent wreath, and pray together as a class / family to see the joys of each day this week as God sends them to us.

December 16:
Write thank you notes to people who have had a positive influence on you.

December 17:
At each meal today, say a prayer for all those who are hungry and in need of shelter. Pray also for all missionaries who love and care for the poor.
December 18:
“Be an angel” for the Missions! Ask your pastor to hang some angels on your parish Christmas tree, encouraging people to donate to the Missions!

December 19:
Sacrifice your lunch snack money for the Missions. Put your money in your classroom mission box for MCA. (Don't have an MCA Advent box in your classroom? Start one in this week before Christmas!)

December 20:
Forgive someone who has hurt you. Pray for peace in places in the Missions where there is war or fighting.

December 21:
Who are the people in your neighborhood, school, and church communities who are lonely, excluded, or a bit different? Take time today to offer a kind word to them. If you are not able to reach out to them directly, pray for him/her. Pray also for missionaries who reach out to those who are alone and abandoned.

December 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Read today's Gospel (Mt. 1:18-24), light all four candles on your Advent wreath, and pray together as a class / family to remember always that "God is with us."

December 23:
Today smile at everyone you meet. Imagine your joy reaches mission families across the globe.

December 24:
Pray the World Mission Rosary for children throughout the Missions. Learn more at www.missio.org/resources

December 25:
Celebrate the birth of the Christ Child by joyfully thanking God for the great gift He has given to you ~ the gift of Your faith – and the gift He has given to all the world ~ the gift of His Son. Pray for all in the Missions who may not know about Jesus’ birth and for the missionaries who bring them this Good News!