



Christian Education Bulletin Insert

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Symbol of St Cecilia,
patron saint of music

November 1 - 8, The Octave of All Saints.

Are you, or any members of your family, named for a saint? Do you know anything about his/her life? Do you think you are like him/her in any way? What date is your saint's day? Is your church named for a saint? Can you find out who decided on the name and why?

In the Book of Alternative Services, beginning on p. 21, there is a list of the special days in each month, which includes many saints' days. In the Book of Common Prayer, this is on p. ix near the beginning of the book. Think also, during this week, about members of your family who have died. They are saints too. Talk about them and what was important to them.

Make a family calendar of saints. Put in the dates for saints after which family members are named and also record the birthdays of family members, including those who have died. (The church remembers saints on the day they died, since this is the day they were "born to eternal life." For members of your family, you may prefer to honour their memory on their birthday.)

November 22, the death of C.S. Lewis C.S. Lewis does not have an 'official' day in the church calendar, but is very well known and loved for his many books for both adults and children. If you and your family have not read "The Chronicles of Narnia," a series of seven children's books which begins with the "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," you have a treat in store. Lewis tells the story of redemption through Aslan the lion, representing Jesus, and the four child disciples, Lucy, Peter, Edmund and Susan. The books are available at any good children's bookstore, and the BBC videos of the first three books may be borrowed from the Resource Centre. (Call 693-2294)

November 23, The Reign of Christ/Christ the King (Revised Common Lectionary)

Make a banner or poster for your home to celebrate this special Sunday and to which you can add symbols on each

of the four Sundays in Advent. Use white or a neutral background colour for the banner and cut out a large gold crown shape to stick in the middle. Decorate the crown with sequins, glitter or coloured 'jewels.' Shape the bottom of the banner into four scallops or points. Attach the loop side of small pieces of velcro to the backs of these points. Make a symbol for each Sunday in Advent and attach a short ribbon with a small piece of velcro (the hook side) at the end. Suitable symbols might be a star for Week 1 - Hope, a dove for Week 2 - Peace, a bell shape for Week 3 - Joy and a heart shape for Week 4 - Love. On each Sunday in Advent attach the appropriate symbol to your banner. (*Adapted from Seasons of the Spirit curriculum*)

November 23, the Sunday Next Before Advent (Book of Common Prayer Lectionary)

Read the collect for this Sunday, BCP p. 259. This "Stir Up" Sunday is the traditional day to make the Christmas cake and pudding, so that they have time to mature before Christmas day. Everyone in the family was asked to stir the batter and silently pray a short prayer.

November 30 - Advent I

Make sure you have an **Advent wreath** ready for this day. You can make one using a 9 or 12 inch styrofoam wreath base. Use an apple corer to make 4 evenly spaced holes in it for the candles. Before you put the candles in, wrap the base with strips of 2" wide green plastic cut from a garbage bag. Decorate the wreath with fresh or artificial greenery and cones, berries or artificial flowers. Insert the branches and flowers into the foam at an angle and try to get them to lie as flat as possible on the top to lessen the fire risk. Put the candles in last, three purple and one pink. In the centre, place a white candle in a small candle holder. Be sure never to leave a lighted Advent wreath unattended.

Nativity Scene. Another Advent idea is to collect 24 or more little figures for a nativity scene. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels and the magi will be the most expensive, but you can add donkeys, sheep and other animal figures very reasonably. Take turns placing a new figure in your scene each day in Advent, leaving Mary, Joseph and the baby until the end. If you have enough figures, keep the magi and their camels until after Christmas.

For Fun

Knock, knock, who's there? Icy. Icy who? Icy you!