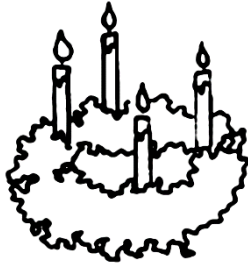


December 1

Advent Wreath
Everlasting Life

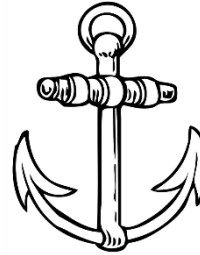
"O eternal God, the beginning and the end, you who sustain all things, understand all things, who existed before all things, and who are without end, be with us, remain among us; strengthen our intentions, sanctify our souls and eradicate in us all that is evil. Enable us to make a good sacrifice and pour out your abundant blessings, and so enable us to enter into the holy of holies wherein dwells your presence." ~Ethiopian liturgy



December 2

Anchor
Hope

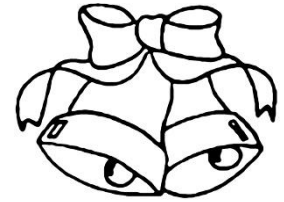
"Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Vistory is ours through Him who loves us." ~Desmond Tutu



December 3

Bells
Worship

"Let all the earth bow to you and sing to you,
Let all sing your name Most High."
~Orthodox Liturgy



December 4

Angels
Announcing

"Tell the timid to take heart.
The Lord our God will come!"
~Monastic liturgy



December 5

Christmas ornament – round
Eternity and endlessness

"The earth is your mother, she holds you.
The sky is your father, he protects you.
Sleep, sleep.
Rainbow is your sister, she loves you.
The winds are your brothers, they sing to you.
Sleep, sleep.
We are together always.
We are together always.
There never was a time when this was not so."
~Native American song



December 6

St. Nicholas Day
Santa Claus
Giving

"God of joy and cheer, we thank you for your servant, the good bishop Nicholas. In loving the poor, he showed us your kindness; in caring for your children, he revealed your love.
Make us thoughtful without need of reward so that we, too, may be good followers of Jesus. ~ David B. Batchelder



December 7

Lanterns (or Candles)
Jesus is the light of the world

"Good news; but if you ask me
what it is, I know not;
It is a track of feet in the snow,
It is a lantern shoing a path,
It is a door set open."
~G. K. Chesterton



December 8

Bethlehem (or heart)
Love

"Because of his
boundless love,
Jesus became
what we are that
he might make us
to be what he is."
~Irenaeus, Third
century



December 9

Book
Jesus is the word made flesh

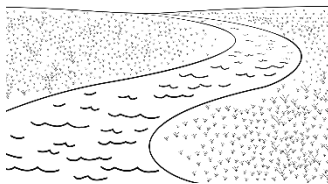
"There is one God,
whose word and
wisdom made and
ordered all things.
God's word is our Lord
Jesus Christ who in these
last times became human
among humankind, that Christ
might unite the end with the beining,
that is, humankind with God."
~Irenaeus of Lyon, Second century



December 10

River
John the Baptist

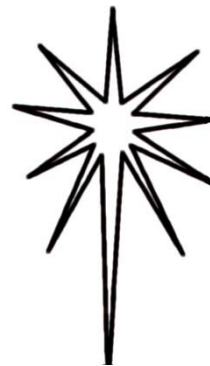
"On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that
the Lord is nigh;
Awake and
harden, for he
brings
Glad tidings of
the King of kings."
~Charles Coffin, Eighteenth Century



December 11

Star
Following the star –
guiding our way

"Christ is the Morning
Star, who, when the
night of this world is
past, gives to his saints
the promise of the light
of life, and opens
everlasting day."
~Venerable Bede, Eighth
century



December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Day
A woman
Violence against women

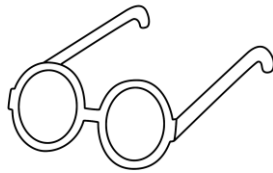
"That man say we can't
have as much rights as a
man 'cause Christ wasn't
a woman. Where did
your Chirst come from?
From God and a woman.
Man had nothing to do
with it." ~Sojourner Truth,
Nineteenth century



December 13

St. Lucy Day
Eyeglasses
Sight to the blind, seeing new things

"My candle burns at both ends;
It will not last the night;
But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends –
It give a lovely light!"
~Edna St. Vincent Millay



December 14

Wisemen
Setting off on the journey to search for God

"The gifts of God are multiplied, and we in our time experience all that the first believers did. For though the gospel account tells us only of the days when three men, untaught by prophetic preaching or the testimonies of the Law, came from the distant East in order to know God, yet we see the same thing happening now even more clearly and on a far larger scale in the enlightenment of all who are called." ~Leo the Great, Fifth century



December 15

Shepherd
Joy – finding joy in our every-day tasks

"As not, doubt not. You have, my heart, already chosen the joy of Advent. As a force against your own uncertainty, bravely tell yourself, 'It is the Advent of the great God.' So this with faith and love, and then both the past of your life, which has become holy, and your life's eternal, boundless future will draw together in the now of this world. For then into the heart comes the one who is Advent, the boundless future who is already in the process of coming, the Lord, who has already come into the time of the flesh to redeem it."
~Karl Rahner



December 16

Mary & Joseph traveling
Immigrants, immigration & finding a new life

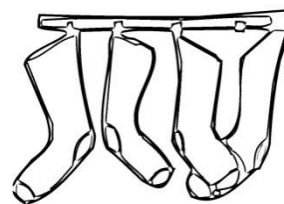
"See! The ruler of the earth shall come, the Lord who will take from us the heavy burden of our exile."



December 17

Orange (or Christmas stocking)
Giving (gold or money)

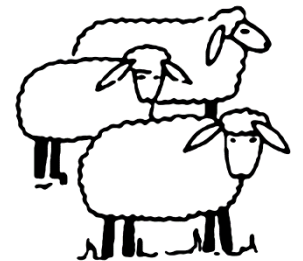
"God saw the world falling to ruin because of fear and immediately acted to call it back with love. God invited it by grace, preserved it by love, and embraced it with compassion." ~Peter Chrysologus, Fifth century



December 18

Sheep
Innocence and gentleness

"If you think you can bring your people back into the fold by making them suffer, then I, Leib, son of Rachel, swear to you that you will not succeed. So why try? Save your children by giving them joy, by delivering them. By doing it that way, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain." ~Hasidic tale told by Elie Wiesel



December 19

Poinsettia

Giving what we can (Mexican tradition – 16th century)

"Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." ~Book of Common Prayer

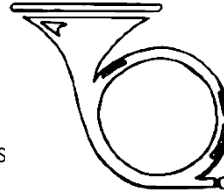


December 20

Musical notes or instruments

Music brings us close to God

"This morning to ward off the noise I have my radio on – Berlioz, Schubert, Chopin, etc. It is not a distraction, it is a pacifier. As St. Teresa Avila said as she grabbed her castanets and started to dance during the hour of recreation in her unheated convent, 'One must do something to make life bearable!'" ~ Dorothy Day



December 21

Winter Solstice

Moon

The Longest night of the year

"O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn, When will we sing your morning song?

Come, Son of God! Without your light

We grope in dread and gloom of night."

~Friedrich von Spee, Seventh century



December 22

Dove

Peace

"It is only together as the Body of Christ that we can hope to find healing, reconciliation, and genuine and lasting peace."

~The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori



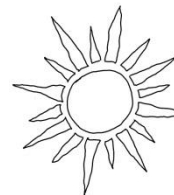
December 23

Sun

Light begins to overcome the darkness

"The Lord will come soon, will not delay. The Lord will make the darkest places bright."

~Monastic liturgy



December 24

Crèche

Humility

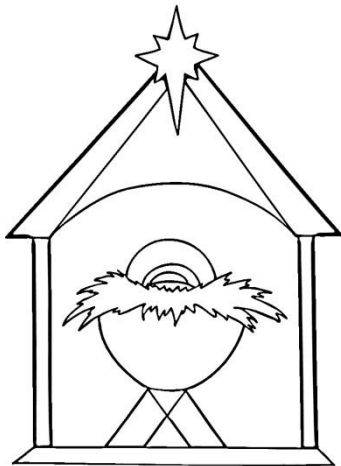
"No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God – for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God." ~Oscar Romero



Christmas Day

Baby Jesus
New life

"Good News and
great joy to all
the world: Today
is born our savior,
Christ the Lord."
~Mass at Midnight,
Roman rite



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