

Advent Calendar Chain:

A tribute to the Virgin Mary

Advent means “coming” - the coming of Christ. Today begins the 50-day period (in Armenian, “*Hisnag*”) during which we prepare to celebrate the Nativity and Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a time for us to remember the true meaning of Christmas and look within our hearts to see if there is anything that stands between the Good News of Jesus’ birth and us.

During Advent, let’s show our love for Christ through our actions, thoughts and prayers with this Advent calendar chain. Each Sunday during Advent, open 1 chain link and read the note inside. It will be a wonderful reminder for us to improve our habits and open our hearts to receive Christ - God’s greatest gift of all!



SUPPLIES NEEDED

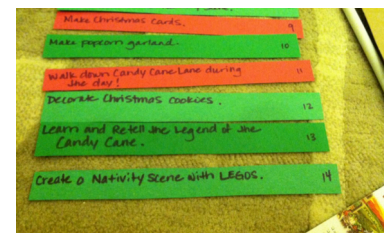
- Construction paper cut in strips (each child needs 7)
- Scissors
- “Header” for top of calendar - each student needs 1 (*Template to follow*)
- Glue
- Stapler
- Pens/Pencils

PREPARATION BEFORE ACTIVITY

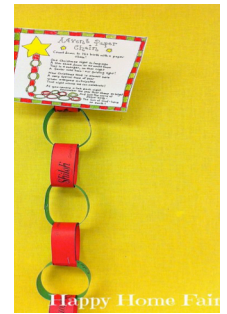
- Cut construction paper into strips
- Print out “Header” Template and cut out
- Cut slits at the bottom of each Header - This will be how students will connect the Header to the 1st chain link. (*See diagram to right*)

WHAT TO DO

1. Give each student 7 paper strips and 1 Header.
2. Instruct students to copy 1 of the following 7 Advent activities on each of their 7 paper strips:
 - Do something kind for everyone in your family today.
 - Phone someone special and give them Good News.
 - Think of someone who hurt your feelings. Forgive them.
 - Recite a prayer at mealtime tonight.
 - Tell a parent what you are thankful for today.
 - Pray for peace.
 - Mary is the holy mother of Jesus. Do something nice for *your* mom today.



3. Have students connect the Header to their 1st chain link carefully by sliding the paper strip (with message facing down) through the slit at the bottom of Header. Staple the chain link closed so that the message they wrote is hidden inside and cannot be seen.
4. Using a stapler, students will continue connecting the remaining 6 paper strips to create a chain. Make sure their written messages are hidden on the inside of each chain link!
5. Explain that students are to open 1 chain link each SUNDAY during Advent, beginning with next Sunday. Their final link will be opened on Armenian Christmas, January 6.



HEADER TEMPLATE: Print; Cut out each square; Make a slit by cutting at dotted line.

<p>My Advent Calendar Chain</p>  <p><i>50 days I prepare for thee, Now until Nativity. Our Savior's born and angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"</i></p> <p>-----</p>	<p>My Advent Calendar Chain</p>  <p><i>50 days I prepare for thee, Now until Nativity. Our Savior's born and angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"</i></p> <p>-----</p>
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