

An Advent Sharing List for Families



- Look through your clothes for things in good shape that you will never wear again. Bundle them for delivery to the St Vincent de Paul bin, a shelter, etc. (Anton's cleaners accepts winter coats and distributes them to those in need)
- Buy a gift you would personally like to have. Donate it to be given to someone at a local family shelter or the Needham Community Council.
- Read the Christmas story in the Bible as a family (Luke 2:1-20).
- Bake and decorate sugar cookies as a family. Keep half for yourself and give the rest away.
- Offer to help a family member, relative or friend, do their shopping or wrapping.
- Thank a salesperson for their assistance. Tell them you understand how hard it must be to keep smiling during the pre-Christmas rush.
- As a family, go without between meal snacks or even a meal. Contribute the money saved to a local soup kitchen or food pantry.
- Donate a package of heavy-weight socks to a homeless shelter.
- Borrow or buy a book about Christmas Traditions around the world. Add an idea you like to your family celebration of the season.
- Locate Israel and Bethlehem on a globe or world map. Pray for peace in the land and continent of Jesus' birth.
- Call or write a family friend you haven't seen in a while. Let him or her know how much you appreciate their presence in your life.
- Schedule a date for a family visit to a local nursing home – not now but in February or March when Christmas caroling is just a memory.
- Buy a family's worth of gloves and hats, then, give them to our Tree of Warmth.

- Invite someone who lives alone to join you for a special Advent or Christmas meal.
- Select a cause or charity you would like to support as a family during the coming year and decide how you will work it into your budget.
- Think of a no-cost, “invisible” present (story, joke, favor, hug) you can give to a family member or friend – and share it today.
- Clean house together in preparation for putting up your Christmas tree and decorations.
- Sing a favorite Christmas song together.
- Make an ornament for your Christmas tree.
- Offer a prayer of thanks for someone who went out of their way today to make your day better.
- Look at everything that your family does to prepare for Christmas and how these tasks are shared. Cut back on or redistribute the responsibilities so that no one feels overburdened.
- As you watch or read the day’s news reports, think about where Jesus is being born in poverty today and what you can do to help.
- Call or write a friend to thank him or her for being a good listener and a faithful friend.
- Take time today to sit and pray. Think about what you are thankful for and what your hopes are for the coming year.
- Do something good today for someone who will never know you did it or be able to do something for you in return.
- List the things you least like about Christmas preparation. Decide as a family to eliminate at least a couple of things from your list.
- Figure out what makes you feel best at Christmas time figure out a way to incorporate the feeling in your life throughout the year.
- Take an hour off today to do nothing, nap, listen to music, or go through photos of the past year.
- Look three strangers in the eye today, smile, and wish them a cheerful Merry Christmas.
- List the things you most like about Christmas preparation. Schedule time together to do them so that they do not get lost in the rush.

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

Dear God,

Two thousand years ago, You brought Your Son, Jesus into this world to teach us the power of love and sacrifice.

As we raise this tree, we remember His birth and the meaning of His life for us.

Bless this tree, as a symbol of our celebration of Jesus' birth and our gratitude for His sacrifice.

May the joy this tree brings and the gifts we place under it remind us of the many gifts You have given us.

We ask Your blessings upon our loved ones, this day and always.

Amen.