AS WE NAVIGATE THE “HOLIDAY SEASON”
HERE’S OUR DAVID LETTERMAN STYLE
“TOP 10 THINGS FAMILIES CAN DO TO OBSERVE ADVENT”

1. PUT AN ADVENT WREATH ON YOUR TABLE
Get an Advent Wreath for your home. You know the drill: four purple candles, a pink one for the third week, and another purple for the final week. Light it at the dinner table, and read a short passage or reflection from a Bible or Advent book. This is a great way to start each week.

2. GET AN ADVENT CALENDAR:
Advent calendars have become really popular as countdowns to Christmas, but a traditional Advent calendar can also serve as a reminder of the spiritual aspects of the season. Many calendars include daily devotions, prayers, and reflections that can help guide you through the Advent season.

3. CELEBRATE THE SAINTS OF ADVENT:
Advent season is full of popular and not-so-popular saints’ feasts. St. Nicholas (December 6), St. Lucia (December 13), and St. Mary (December 8) are just a few to look for in the season of Advent as examples on our path to holiness.

4. GO TO CONFESSION:
As Catholics, we are blessed with the opportunity to receive God’s mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This season, many of our Catholic churches expand their opportunities for confession in the days leading up to Christmas.

5. FILL YOUR MANGER:
The idea is to create a comfortable bed for Baby Jesus by filling the manger, with hay that represents the good deeds we do for others. This is a reminder of God’s love and the work we do in preparing the way for Christ.

6. CHOOSE ADVENT READING:
Each year families have the opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for God’s blessings by adopting a family through Catholic Charities. It’s a tangible way to get involved in the work of giving and the importance of being specific to Advent in your manger.

7. CELEBRATE BAMBINI SUNDAY:
Bambinelli Sunday is celebrated in Italy on the Third Sunday of Advent. It is the day that the Holy Father blesses the Baby Jesus figurines for the local children’s Nativity Scene. Consider bringing your family’s “Bambinelli” to Mass with you that Sunday and having your pastor bless your figure to place in your home Nativity.

8. ADOPT A FAMILY:
Each year families have the opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for God’s blessings by adopting a family through Catholic Charities. It’s a tangible way to get involved in the work of giving and the importance of being specific to Advent in your manger.

9. COME JOIN US AT THE LIGHTING OF THE CRECHE:
Pause for Prayer:
In the hustle and the bustle of the holidays it’s easy to get frazzled. When you feel overwhelmed, stop and pause for prayer to recall what the season is truly about.

10. HAPPY ADVENT!