ADVENT & CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, STUDENTS, PARISHIONERS, YOUTH GROUPS

Our readers tell us they appreciate our annual list of suggested Advent & Christmas gift items for inspiration, enlightenment, and entertainment — and with a special focus on children and youth. We hope you find a few choices that might appeal to those on your gift list. Prices range from $2.75 to $30.

Sophia Institute Press (sophiainstitute.com) — Check website for sale/discounts.

Anthony DeStefano, *Christmas in Heaven*. Illustrated by Bernadette Carstensen
"*Christmas in Heaven* combines a delightful teaching on the saints with a sweet story of a boy who, through the eyes of faith, gets to see his grandmother again in Heaven. It is sure to tug at the heartstrings of readers young and old, bringing yuletide joy to all." $17.95. ***For children.***

Anna Mendell, *Day-by-Day Coloring Book of Saints.* Illustrated by Mary MacArthur. Volume 1, January Through June
"Children will encounter saints from around the world, including old friends such as St. Patrick and St. Catherine of Siena, and new ones too, such as St. Paul Miki and St. Gianna Molla." $14.95.

Volume 2, July Through December
"Children will encounter … fascinating characters such as St. Pius X, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Martha, and renowned favorites such as St. George, St. Clare, St. Juan Diego, and St. Mary herself. … children will learn that each saint has a special day when we remember and celebrate their lives so that we can imitate them in this world and follow them into eternal life in the next." $14.95

Claudia Cangilla McAdam, *Mother Cabrini, A Heart for the World.* illustrated by Richard Cowdrey.
"… Angel Studios is proud to produce this children's book. ...The major motion picture, *Cabrini*, is the powerful true story of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant religious sister who arrived in New York City in 1889 to battle disease, crime, and corruption on behalf of impoverished children. Mother Cabrini built an empire of hope unlike anything the world had ever seen. Share her legacy and inspiration with *Cabrini* gifts, available at shop.angel.com." $17.95 ***For children.***

Janine Rainwater, *The Melody of Love*.
"Through rhythmic verses and captivating imagery, Janine Rainwater weaves a story that will enchant children and adults alike… Ideal for parents, grandparents, and loved

ones, *The Melody of Love* is a heartwarming addition to any children's book collection. Let this story inspire a sense of wonder and the assurance of being unconditionally loved." $17.95 ***For children.***

Sophia Institute Press*. Bible Stories for Children.*
"The Bible stories kids love best… In charming words and classic images beloved by children for over a century, here are the stories of *Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, David and Goliath*, and the *Birth of Jesus. …* These and the other Bible stories here will fill young children with a sense of wonder and a deep, abiding confidence that God truly loves them. $11.95. ***For children age 6 and up.***

Sophia Institute Press*. Saints Memory Card Game.*
"Learn the saints by matching images…" 54 full color cards. $2.95 ***For children.***

Danny Abramowicz, *Crossing the Goal, A Saint Goes Marching On.*
"Danny Abramowicz gives an inside view of his life in the NFL alongside the reinvigoration of his Catholic Faith and the development of a prayerful relationship with Jesus Christ. Join him on his journey from 'cultural Catholic' to EWTN television host and evangelizer of Catholic men across the country." $14.95.

Leisa Marie Carzon, Ph.D., *Sister, Soldier, Surgeon: The Life and Courage of Sister Deidre Byrne, M.D.*
"Meet a modern-day Joan of Arc. Whether in scrubs, camouflage, or a religious habit, Sr. Dede Byrne, in her threefold calling as a professed religious sister, renowned surgeon, and U.S. Army colonel, inspire us to both virtue and action. ...Sr. Dede ministered at Ground Zero on September 11, served as St. Mother Teresa's personal physician, was deployed as a surgeon to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, facilitated the rescue of citizens hiding from the Taliban, and travels regularly to the war-torn Nuba Mountains in Sudan to provide life-saving medical care to inhabitants under siege. …Dubbed 'the Mother Teresa of D.C.,' Sr. Dede continues to provide medical care to the marginalized from her convent basement clinic and administer the abortion pill reversal procedure that has resulted in the delivery of more than a dozen healthy babies." $18.95.

Ignatius Press (Ignatius.com)

Cheryl C.D. Hughes, *Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Convert Maker*.
"This book examines the life, priesthood, and celebrity of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen in the tumultuous 20th century, as well as unfolding the process of conversion for some of his most noteworthy and sometimes controversial converts… Communists, movie stars, writers and countless others made their way to his door for instructions in the faith…" $19.95

Ida Görres, *John Henry Newman, A Life Sacrificed*.
"… brings the great cardinal to life before our eyes. While famous for his brilliance, Cardinal Newman did not hide in an ivory tower. His life was one of risk, sacrifice, and immense charity. His sharp turn to Catholicism rocked the campus of Oxford University, cost him his friendships, his livelihood, and his identity. Through failures and disappointments, over and over again, Newman let himself be recreated by God…" $19.95.

Matthew Daniels and Roxanne King, *Catholic Heroes of Civil and Human Rights*.
"… this survey features men and women whose faith drove them to courageously defend the dignity of the children of God, especially the most vulnerable." Included are: Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, Nicholas Black Elk, Dorothy Day, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Oscar Romero. $18.95.

Gertrude von le Fort, *The Wedding of Magdeburg*.
A novel taking place in Germany 1631, at the time of the Reformation, by the author of *The Song of the Scaffold*, *The Wife of Pilate: Stories*, and *The Innocents: Stories*. $17.95.

Maura Roan McKeegan, *Julia Greeley, Secret Angel to the Poor*. Illustrated by Gina Capaldi.
For **ages 7 and up** — "Julia Greeley, a former slave, was an angel of mercy to the poor of Denver" whose cause for sainthood was opened in Rome in 2016." $15.99.

Tomie de Paola, *The Lady of Guadalupe*.
For children **ages 5 and up**, by the late beloved children's author and illustrator. $16.99

Arnaud Delalande and Yvon Bertorello, *The Swiss Guard, Protectors of the Pope*. Illustrated by Laurent Bidot.
A graphic novel, for children **ages 13 and up**. $16.99

Corinna Turner, *The Boy Who Knew Carlo Acutis*.
For **ages 13 and up** — an introduction to the factual life of Blessed Carlo Acutis through a journey with fictional teenager Daniel, who has been diagnosed with leukemia. $9.99.

Camille W. De Préveaux, *Carlo Acutis, Holiness in the Third Millennium*. Illustrated by Fabrizio Russo.
A graphic novel for **ages 8 and up** covering the extraordinary short life of the beloved self-taught computer expert, soccer player, and website builder. $16.99.

Vivian Dudro & Catherine Addington. *Brother Rafael and The Rainy-Day Devils*. Illustrated by Sara Ugolotti.
A novel for children **ages 7 and up** — "this uplifting and lavishly illustrated story [set in a monastery kitchen] will inspire children to call on God for strength in the daily struggles against temptation." $14.99.

Eleanor Bourg Nicholson, *The Hound of the Lord*. Illustrated by Amandine Wanert.
For children **ages 7 and up** — "the story of Saint Dominic as told by the legendary dog Torch … describes the founder of the Dominican Order and the many challenges he faced while preaching the Gospel throughout medieval Europe." $8.99.

Amy Welborn, *Bambinelli Sunday*. Illustrated by Ann Kissane Engelhart.
For children **ages 5 and up** -- "tells the story of one little boy, Alessandro, and what he learns from Baby Jesus about the love that can overcome anything" on the Third Sunday of Advent, when families gather in Saint Peter's Square for the papal blessing of their nativity figures. $14.99.

Andrea Bocelli, *Duets: 30th Anniversary*.
2-CD collection of 33 of the beloved tenor's duets with such voices as Luciano Pavarotti, Alison Krauss, Sarah Brightman, Stevie Wonder, Cecilia Bartoli, Virginia Bocelli. Includes 32-page collector's booklet. $27.95.

Vianney Vocations

Mother Clare Matthiass, CFR, *Little Convent in the City — Biggest Family Ever!* Illustrated by Michael Corsini.
Book 3 of the **Little Convent** series of illustrated novels for children shares Sister Andy's excitement — and challenges — as she approaches her big day, her final vows. $24.
The previous two Little Convent books are *The Unsolvable Problem* and *The Light in You*. $24. ***For children.***

Rachel Hoover Canto, *Pretty Good Catholic: How to Find, Date, and Marry Someone Who Shares Your Faith.*
"… New author Rachel Hoover tells her own amazing story while offering fresh, sharp-witted insights for both women and men. Learn how to set aside your checklist, date real people, and open your mind without lowering your standards. If you're looking for a modern, relatable, and orthodox guide to dating—with advice that *actually works*—this is the book!" $20.

Fr. Greg Gerhart, *Discernment 180 for Men.*
A six-month discernment plan to help men dive deep while discerning the priesthood. $20.

Fr. Greg Gerhart, *Discernment 180 for Women.*
A six-month discernment plan to help women dive deep while discerning religious life. $20.

Marian Priests and Brothers of the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy (https://shopmercy.org)

Jesus is Born — Advent Ornament Book
"A fun interactive book … includes 7 short devotions, each including a Scripture verse, conversation starters, and a coordinating removable ornament to help you and your child share the Greatest Story Ever Told!" $19.95. ***For children***.

Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC. *The Litany of St. Joseph Coloring Book*. Illustrated by Sam Estrada.
"… a fun way for **children of all ages** to grow closer to St. Joseph, the ultimate superhero … ." $10.95.

Our Sunday Visitor (https://www.orderosv.com)

Colleen Pressprich, *The Jesse Tree for Families*. Illustrated by Amy Heyse.
"... presents a lovely, achievable way to celebrate the liturgical season of Advent with your children. Each day focuses on a specific person from Jesus' family tree with a meditation perfect for the whole family and a beautifully illustrated portrait, plus an ornament to hang on your family's Jesse tree." $24.95

Jason M. Craig, Leaving Boyhood Behind: Reclaiming the Gift of Manhood and Traditional Rites of Passage.
Written by the cofounder of Fraternus, a Catholic mentoring program for boys. $24.95.

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, *I Can Pray Anywhere*. Illustrated by Jim Starr.
"… with illustrations and a memorable rhyme … teaches children that any moment is a good moment to pray…" $17.95 ***For children***.

Ave Maria Press (https://www.avemariapress.com)
Katie Prejean McGrady & Tommy McGrady, *Advent and Christmas: One Day at a Time for Catholic Teens*.
"… offers devotions for Advent and Christmas that help teens make sense of the things that most in their lives such as relationships, their future, and coping with stress." Easy-carry 5x7 booklet, $2.75.

Paraclete Press (https://paracletepress.com)

Paraclete Press, *A Classic Christmas Gift of Literature, Poems, Prayer, and Music.*
The "best of the best" in writing, music, and fine art of the sacred season, includes the *Sing Noel* CD featuring traditional carols such as "Caroling, Caroling." $30.

Dandi Daley Mackall, *Three Wise Women: 40 Devotions Celebrating Advent with Mary, Elizabeth, and Anna.*
Tells the story of Jesus' birth from the perspective of Mary, his mother; Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; and Anna, the prophetess at the temple in Jerusalem. "An excellent resource for women's Bible study groups." $18.99

Laura Sassi, *Happy Birthday, Christmas Child!* Illustrated by Gabi Murphy.
A board book for children **ages up to 4**. "Join Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, sheep, and various stable critters as they celebrate the birthday of a very special baby in this rhyming counting book for little readers and their families." $9.99.

Phil Gallery, *Saint Francis and the Animals*, Illustrated by Sibyl MacKenzie.
"Mother Bird tells her son stories of St. Francis of Assisi… 'Stunning illustrations and engaging text. This book is sure to spark valuable conversations.'" Fr. Pat McCloskey. OFM, Franciscan Editor, *St. Anthony Messenger*. $17.99. ***For children.***

Anselm Grün, *Your Light Gives Us Hope, 24 Daily Practices for Advent.*
"An Advent devotional of very simple and direct reflections by Benedictine monk Anselm Grün." Special discount from $17.99 to $5 through November 30.

Paula Gooder, *The Meaning is in the Waiting*. Foreward by Lauren F. Winner
"Learn more about the gift of waiting as you engage with those in the Advent Scriptures: Abraham & Sarah, the Hebrew prophets, John the Baptist, and Mary." Special discount from $17.99 to $5 through November 30.

Anne E. Neuberger, *That Baby in the Manger*. Illustrated by Chloe E. Pitkoff.
"... a children's Christmas picture book with a needed message about inclusion and acceptance of cultural differences. As the children of a small church struggle with the portrayal of the Holy Family in the Nativity scene as European—not Middle Eastern and not necessarily like them—they learn more about Jesus's love for all children." $15.99. ***For children***.

Franciscan Media (https://shop.franciscanmedia.org)

Susan Hines-Brigger, Advent 2024 Daily Reflections with Saint Padre Pio.
"The mysteries surrounding St. Padre Pio's legacy—his stigmata, visions, miracles—sometimes make the Italian 20th-century saint difficult to relate to. In this Advent booklet, *St. Anthony Messenger*'s executive editor Susan Hines-Brigger helps readers connect with the person *behind* the saint: his simplicity and lifestyle of prayer, piety, and poverty. St. Pio's daily example of a follower of Christ helps guide readers through a reflective and prayer-filled Advent season." Easy-carry booklet form (3 1/2" x 5"), sold in packs of 10, $25/pack.

Murray Bodo, OFM, *Nourishing Love: A Franciscan Celebration of Mary*.
St. Francis had a deep and lifelong devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, committing his order to her care. Franciscan Murray Bodo explores that relationship in this evocative and deeply spiritual encounter with Marian devotion across the centuries. $16.99.

Diane M. Houdek, *Simple Gifts: Daily Reflections for Advent*.
This collection of quiet daily reflections offers a call for simplicity and gratitude during the hectic holiday season. Readers are encouraged to slow down, simplify, be grateful, and embrace the mystery of the incarnation. $12.99.

Melanie Rigney, *Blessed Are You: Finding Inspiration from Our Sisters in Faith*.
Melanie Rigney uses stories of the saints, our sisters in faith, to help readers grow in their spiritual lives. Some of these saints are familiar—Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Bernadette of Lourdes, Elizabeth Ann Seton—while others are not so well known—Maria Karlowska, Claudine Thevenet, Josephine Bakhita, Elizabeth of Portugal. $17.99.

Word on Fire (https://www.wordonfire.org)

Fr. John P. Cush, *Nothing But You, Lord: Refletions on the Priesthood and Priestly Formation Through the Lens of Bisoph Robert Barron*. Foreward by Bishop John O. Barres.

"… Fr. John Cush draws on the thought of Bishop Robert Barron to recover the fundamentals of what it means to be a Catholic priest. Fr. Cush explores the qualities and character of the priest; the role of hope amidst priestly abuses and failures; and the four dimensions of priestly formation — human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral — outlined by Pope John Paul II." $29.95.

Caryll Houselander, *The Shepherd's Coat*. Illustrated by Jess Mason.

Benji the shepherd boy's dearest wish is to find the Baby Jesus and give him his most prized possession: a sheepskin coat. What will he do when he discovers a little lost boy trembling in the cold? … With breathtaking illustrations by Jess Mason, this stunning book will be a favorite Christmas story for families to enjoy again and again." Reduced to $19.96. ***For children***.

Haley Stewart and Clare Sheaf, *The Catholic Kids' Cookbook*.

"… Readers will be introduced to the Church's seasons and holy days with stories of saints and thirty-three recipes… Accompanied by gorgeous photos, sacred art, scripture, and prayers, this charming cookbook for children **ages 6-14** seeks to evangelize with the beauty of the Church's traditions and cultivate the domestic church." Reduced to $27.96.