



### The Advent Conspiracy

**Advent Conspiracy is about the entire body of Christ at work in the world.**

December can be a chaotic month. We rush around trying to find the perfect Christmas gifts, to attend the holiday concert, get cookies made, write that Christmas letter and to prepare our homes for guests. We get caught up in the consumerism surrounding the holiday that we completely miss the Advent season.

Advent is the season to help us prepare for the coming of Christ with hopeful anticipation. We invite you to slow down and seek ways to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. Just as the star guided all to Jesus let the star guide you to celebrate Jesus in a new way this Advent and Christmas seasons and beyond. How do we do that? We worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all.

**This year we invite you into the Advent Conspiracy.**

#### WORSHIP FULLY



Christmas begins and ends with Jesus.

#### SPEND LESS



Give more intentionally and relationally.

#### GIVE MORE



Free up your resources to support things that truly matter.

#### LOVE ALL



Radically love others like Jesus did



### WORSHIP FULLY

**Nearly every character in the Christmas story that encountered our King responded in the same way: worship. Let's make the conscious effort to reorient our hearts toward Christ. Christmas began with worship, may it end with worship.**

- Each week of Advent pick up a bookmark with a scripture for each day of that week
- Come to Adoration on Tuesdays 1:30-7:30pm in the chapel
- Reconciliation Saturdays 9am-10am, 2pm -4pm; Wednesday, December 12, 7pm
- Immaculate Conception December 8 Holy Day Mass Saturday, December 8, 10:00am
- Life Teen Night of Worship December 9, 7-8:15 open to all
- Surrender, December 14, 7pm in church

### LOVE ALL

**Christmas is a chance to move closer to those in crisis. We will love others as Jesus has loved us. God can reach the poor and hurting of our world through the way we choose to celebrate Christmas.**

PRAY – make a prayer jar, put slips in it with different people/organizations on it. Names of people that you sent a Christmas card to or received one from, a missionary group, religious order, staff at St. Dominic's, family members, neighbor, friend etc... Pick a slip each day or week and pray for them for that day/week.



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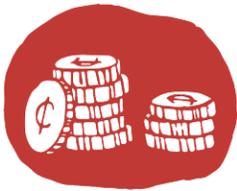
Radically love others as Jesus did

## GIVE MORE

The best gifts celebrate a relationship. They require our time and our energy. Relational giving means that we think about the other person—who they are and what they care about. We can do this by taking time to . . .



- Visit a loved one, Have one and one time with a family member
- Finally getting together with that friend or a neighbor.
- As you wrap gifts or purchase items pray for the recipient
- Take a pledge to giving more of your time to relationships by less screen time.
- Eat with someone who you don't know and get to know them



## SPEND LESS

In our hearts, we know mindless consumption is not the way to celebrate Jesus. But spending less does not mean spending nothing. Rather thoughtfully evaluate what companies and causes you support through your purchases. Volunteer as a way of giving.

On the giving tree this year you will find  "Star Ornaments"  with ways you can spend less by giving from the heart. This can be done anytime this Advent, Christmas season and beyond. Ideas include (if you have another idea, please go for it) . . .

- Consider shopping at local small businesses or fair trade companies. Go to [FairTradeCertified.org](http://FairTradeCertified.org)
- Donate to an organization/project in someone's name.
- Volunteer some time at a Care Facility. Call the activities director and set up a time to go.
- Go to: [penniesoftime.com](http://penniesoftime.com) they provide ideas/resources to support families in how to serve with their kids
- Serve a meal at St. Ben's. St. Dominic's days to serve are: January 11, March 8, May 10
- Call the guest House about bringing a meal to them (or do a cookout for them sometime)
- Go to the Volunteer Center of Waukesha County [www.volunteermatch.org/search/org23985.jsp](http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org23985.jsp)
- Make cards and/or cookies - for shut-ins, the military, meal program, neighbor, firehouse, police station.
- Pay it forward in the drive through.
- **AT HOME:** Go through closets, drawers, basement, garage and donate, Do a chore without being asked, Make a meal for the family.
- **AT SCHOOL:** Help the teacher, stand up for a fellow student, slip an encouraging note in someone's locker, say hi to people in the hall.
- **AT CHURCH:** Spend time volunteering in the office, help with a cleaning project, pick up the grounds, organize a project, volunteer for a ministry serving at Mass, join the choir, help get the bell choir going.
- **IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:** Pay for someone's lunch or coffee, volunteer at a pregnancy center, visit a neighbor, help with shoveling, call someone you know and offer to give a parent a break babysit for free.