

Advent with the Saints for Kids!

Barbara Yoffie



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Introduction

Meet seven saints who can help your family celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons this year: Saints Martin de Porres, Nicholas, Lucy, Francis, Mary the Mother of God, Joseph, and Gianna Beretta Molla. All these saints are also featured in the *Saints and Me!* series, if your family wants to learn more.

Here, you'll get a glimpse of their holy lives and how they witnessed to the faith.

Discover how, led by the Holy Spirit, they grew in qualities and attitudes that enabled them to live for God alone and how your family can grow in holiness this Advent and Christmas season.

Build family traditions with activities that will help you celebrate the season as you model the saints' lives. Prayers to each saint are included and can be used any time during the year.

Come, journey with the saints of Christmas!



St. Martin de Porres

Saint Martin de Porres, a Dominican brother, treated everyone with great charity and kindness. His family was poor, so he knew how it felt to be hungry and lonely. People often made fun of him because of his dark skin. But that didn't bother him.

Saint Martin was helpful, friendly, and kind. He believed that all people were his brothers and sisters in Christ. He gave food to the poor and helped orphans, slaves, and the sick. He cared for dogs, cats, and even mice! Saint Martin loved God very much and lived a life of penance and prayer. People loved St. Martin because he treated everyone with respect and compassion.

Kindness is showing love and mercy to others without expecting anything in return. Saint Martin shared the kindness in his heart by acting with kindness toward others. When someone needed help, St. Martin cheerfully accepted the challenge.

How can we show kindness to neighbors, friends, or even people we do not know well? Think of ways your family can help others.

Perform a random act of kindness with no thought of a reward. Make a donation to a food pantry or a homeless shelter. Participate in a service project in your school or parish. Treat people with respect and kindness just like St. Martin de Porres.

Family Prayer

(Invite everyone to hold hands as you pray.)

Leader: Dear St. Martin,

You knew what it was like to be poor and lonely.

Help our family reach out to others.

*Help us to share what we have and treat others
with respect and compassion.*

All: Let us think of others before ourselves.

Pray the Our Father together.

Leader: St. Martin de Porres,

All: Pray for us.

Children's Prayer

Saint Martin,

You were kind to sick people.

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*You helped the poor and people who did not
have friends.*

I will try to be friendly and kind.

I will be nice and helpful like you.

Saint Martin de Porres, pray for us.



St. Nicholas

On December 6, we celebrate the Advent feast day of a kind and holy bishop, St. Nicholas. One of the most popular saints of the Church, his stories and legends have inspired many Christmas customs, including our gift-giving Santa Claus.

St. Nicholas learned how to be generous and kind from his parents. After their deaths, he used his inheritance to secretly help others, especially those in need. He found great joy in making other people happy. As bishop he taught people about God and helped them to grow in their faith. On many occasions, he came to the aid of children, young women, prisoners, and sailors. Saint Nicholas was loved by all.

His joyful spirit of giving encourages us to