

Peace and Justice Prayer Calendar

January 2017

Human Trafficking Awareness Month (USA)



1 **50th World Day of Prayer for Peace** - “Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace” * We pray that we may “dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words, and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people.” (Pope Francis)

2 **Peace!** *We pray in gratitude for the ten countries at peace (Denmark, Austria, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, Iceland, Australia, and Finland) and for peace for the other 185 countries of the World. (Global Peace Index 2016)

3 **St. Damien of Molokai** (b. 1840) - spent his missionary life caring for lepers. We pray for the Spirit’s guidance on the 115th USA Congress as it convenes in 2017 and for all legislative groups in the USA.

4 **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** * We pray in gratitude for the contributions of Catholic schools to the USA and for all those who carry out the Charism of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.



5 **St. John Neumann** - Immigrant priest & **St. Syncletica** - Desert Mother * We pray for all immigrants throughout the world and for women in leadership roles in church and society.



6 **St. Joan of Arc** (b. 1412) - Patron of France and Soldiers.
Dia De Los Santos Reyes * We pray for the Hispanic Peoples as they celebrate the feast of the Three Kings

7 **Orthodox Christian Christmas** * We pray for all Christian Churches and Faith Communities that they may be faithful witnesses to the Gospel call to reconciliation

January 8-14 **National Migrant Week** (USCCB) *

We pray for a world where immigrants, migrants, and refugees are welcomed with joy and treated with dignity and respect.





- 8 ***Feast of the Epiphany*** * We pray in gratitude for the diversity of peoples and cultures in our world.
St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM Conv, (b. 1894) - Volunteered to die in place of a stranger in a Nazi concentration camp.

- 9 ***Feast of the Baptism of Jesus***
Rigoberta Menchu Tum (b. 1959) - Guatemalan, Indigenous human rights activist, Nobel Prize winner (1972) * We pray in gratitude for peacemakers.

- 10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded (1957) - played a large part in the Civil Rights Movement * We pray that all peoples may experience their civil rights.

- 11 **Human Trafficking Awareness Day** (USA) * We pray for the 600,000 to 800,000 persons trafficked across international borders each year. (US State Department)



We pray for those on death row, especially Christopher Wilkins scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim, and their families.

- 12 For the end of the death penalty and for Robert Philips scheduled for execution in Ohio, the victim, and their families.

- 13 We pray for “all Catholics, that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect migrants and to advocate on their behalf.”
(National Migrant Week Petition)

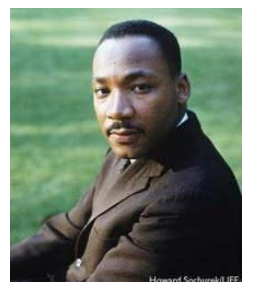
- 14 We pray “for migrants, refugees and all other strangers in our midst, that they may find strength in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love.” National Migrant Week Intention



- 15 **Etty Hillesum** (b.1914) - Writer whose diaries describe the round-up and sending of Jews in the Netherlands to concentration death camps during the 2nd World War, as well as her spiritual development and deepening faith. Deported to Auschwitz (1943) where she was killed on November 30.

- 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service** * We pray for human rights and equality for all.

Religious Freedom Day (UN) We pray for and acceptance and understanding among believers of all faiths.



Jan 16-20 No Name Calling Week (USA) *
We pray for the end of Bullying in all its forms



- 17 We pray “that sincere dialog among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.” (Pope Francis Monthly Intention)



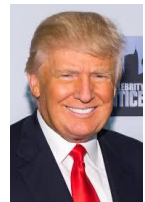
Benjamin Franklin (b. 1706) – was one of the Founding Fathers of the U.S., also, among other things, was a leading author, politician, postmaster, inventor, and diplomat. He once said, “*To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions,*”

January 18-25 Week of Prayers for Christian Unity
Theme: “**Reconciliation: The Love of Christ compels Us**”

- 18 We pray “that by means of dialog and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit that Christians may overcome divisions.” (Pope Francis Monthly Intention)
We pray for Ricky Javon Gray scheduled for execution in Virginia, the victim, and their families.

- 19 We pray for all Christian Churches and Faith Communities that they may be faithful witnesses to the Gospel call to reconciliation.

- 20 Presidential Inaugural Day We pray for the Spirit’s guidance on President Donald Trump, Vice-President Michael Pence, and all members of the executive branch of the government.



- 21 Women’s March In Washington D.C. “Women’s rights are Human Rights” * We pray for the safety of the participants and the success of their message.



- 22 National Prayer Vigil for Life * We pray “for those who long for the equality of all persons : for their dedication to the unborn, the old, the condemned, and the forgotten, may they grow every day”. (USCCB)

- 23 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn * We pray for those who work to defend the lives of the unborn, the sick, the infirm, and the aged.

For Gary Hagen scheduled for execution in Oregon, the victim, and their families.
John Hancock (1737), American merchant, statesman, and prominent Patriot of the American Revolution, said upon signing the Declaration of Independence, “There! His Majesty can now read my name without glasses. And he can double the reward on my head!”

- 24 **St. Francis De Sales**, patron of journalists and writers * We pray for journalists who are risking their lives to tell the stories of the oppressed.



25 **Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul**

We pray “for each of us that we hear the call to reconciliation in Christ and live faithfully the Good News of the Gospel.” (Pope Francis)

We pray for Kosul Chanthakovmane scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim, and their families.

26 **World Day of Leprosy (UN)**

We pray for Terry Darnell Edwards scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim, and their families.

We pray for the 20 people executed in the USA in 2016 including Willie Sallie, Ronald Bert Smith, and Steven Frederick Spears executed in December.

27 **St. Angela Merici** - Founder of the Ursuline Sisters * We pray for all Ursulines throughout the world..

March for Life in Washington DC * We pray for the safety and well-being of all marchers and that their message will promote action.

Holocaust remembrance Day (UN) * For all the victims of the Holocaust and their descendants.



28 **St. Thomas Aquinas** * We pray for all theologians.

Chinese New Year (Year of the fire Chicken) * We pray for the Chinese people, especially members of the underground church.

Jan 29—FEB 4 National Catholic Schools Week

Theme: Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.

We pray for all teachers, students, and staff of Catholic schools.

29 **Harriet Tubman** (b. 1820) - escaped slave who became an abolitionist and rescued over 300 slaves using the Underground Railroad * We pray today for an end of modern day slavery through human trafficking.

30 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s home in Atlanta is bombed (1956) * We pray that all peoples be open to work for better relations with those who are different from themselves.



31 **Thomas Merton** (b. 1915) - Merton once said, “We are obliged to love one another. We are not strictly bound to 'like' one another. Love governs the will: 'liking' is a matter of sense and sensibility. Nevertheless, if we really love others it will not be too hard to like them also.”

We pray for Mark Christenson scheduled for execution in Missouri, the victim, and their families.