



Peace and Justice Prayer Calendar

December 2015

Year of Mercy Begins

November 30 - December 11

We pray that the UN Climate Change Conference
Will achieve a legally binding and universal
Agreement on Climate Change

- 1 World AIDS Day * We pray for the 34 million suffering from AIDS
Rosa Parks *stays sitting* on the Bus in 1955 * We pray for the end of racism in all
its forms.
- 2 **Four Church Women** - Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford,
Dorothy Kazel martyred in El Salvador (1980). We pray for
the end of violence in El Salvador.
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery * We pray for the
victims of human trafficking.
- 3 **St. Francis Xavier, SJ**, (1506-1552), Missionary to Japan * We pray for the
people of Japan.
International Day of Persons with Disabilities * We pray that those with
disabilities will have all that is necessary to live a normal life.
- 4 World Soil Day (Food Agricultural Organization-UN) * In gratitude for the gift of
soil that produces the food we eat.
** Kudos to Sr. Maria Fest for distributing the large amounts of snacks donated from
Southwest Airlines to various nonprofits in the area, for donating clothing to those in
need, and thanks to her family's generosity for supporting the Gifts of Providence
program at Providence Connections.
- 5 International Volunteer Day (UN) * We pray in gratitude for volunteers, especially
those who work to feed the hungry, care for the frail elderly, and shelter the
homeless.
Walt Disney (b. 1901) * For all those who bring delight to children (and grownups,
also).



6 *Second Sunday of Advent*

St. Nicholas * We pray that the children of the world will have the persons and
resources they need in order to achieve their full potential for growth and
development.

Hanukkah begins at sunset * We pray for the Jewish people and for peace in Israel.



7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)

We pray for all those recovering from acts of violence, especially the people in Paris and those associated with the Russian Air Crash.



8 **Feast of Immaculate Conception.**

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy Year begins - We pray for the grace to explore Mercy anew in a world in which the other-than-human together with the human cries out for such mercy.

- 9 **Feast of St. Juan Diego** * We pray for the people of Mexico and for the end of violence caused by drug trafficking.
International Anti-Corruption Day (UN) * We pray for integrity among government officials.



- 10 *International Human Rights Day (UN)* * We pray that no one is denied their basic human rights.
U.S. Women's Suffrage/Wyoming Territory - The first area in the country to give women the right to vote. (1869) [51 years later (1920) there was universal suffrage.]

December 10-14 Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath

We pray for laws that will help reduce the gun violence that is presently in our country and for the victims of violence and their loved one.

- 11 UNICEF founded (1946) * In gratitude for the work of UNICEF
International Mountains Day (UN) We pray in gratitude for the gift of mountains which help sustain life on earth.

- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe** * We pray in thanksgiving for the contributions of Hispanic people to our culture.

** Kudos to Associate Judi Boone for her weekly prayer and communion service to a local personal care home, the praying of the rosary every Thursday, the Stations of the Cross during Lent, and her service as a lector at St. Sylvester's Church in Brentwood, PA.



13 *Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday*

We pray "that all may experience the Mercy of God who never tires of forgiving." (Pope Francis Monthly intention)

- 14 **St. John of the Cross**, mystic, poet, reformer
We pray that Aung San Sui Kyi's party may lead the country of Myanmar (Burma) into a true democracy.
Sandy Hook School Tragedy (2012)

- 15 U.S. Bill of Rights ratified (1791) * We pray that our Congress will ensure that all the rights of its citizens and the countries which it provides funds, are protected.
Margaret Mead (b. 1901) – Cultural Anthropologist M. Mead once said, “We won’t have a society if we destroy the environment.”



December 16- 24 Los Posadas

Celebrated in Mexico, Philippines, Spain, Puerto Rico
symbolizing the journey of Mary and Joseph to find lodging.
Let us remember in prayer all those today without lodging.

- 16 We pray for the abolition of the death penalty and for the repose of the souls of Jerry Cornell and Licho Escamilla executed last month in the USA.
- 17 *“O Wisdom, teach us to be people of Peace and Joy.”*
Pope Francis (b. 1936) * In thanksgiving for the new life he has brought to the Church.
- 18 *“O Sacred Leader, come to our rescue and be with those who are strangers in unknown lands.”*
Stephen Biko (b. 1946) – Noted Anti-Apartheid Activist - Steven Biko once said, *“The most potent weapon of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”*
- 19 *“O Flower of Jesse’s Stem, protect the Children of the world from all evils especially the children of refugees, immigrants, and persecuted Christians.”*



20 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

“O Key of David! Open our hearts to help those in need.”
Let all peoples and governments work to eliminate poverty by 2030
(UN Sustainability Development Goal)

- 21 *“O Radiant Dawn! Shine your light of peace on those who have died in the streets of the world without family or shelter.”* Homeless Memorial Day (USA)
- 22 *“O King of All Nations! Bring your peace to our World.”*
First Day of Winter - Cheer-up. The days begin to get longer....
- 23 *O Emmanuel”* Help us to feed the 11 million children in Eastern and Southern Africa that are facing hunger and disease.

24 We pray "that all families, especially those who are suffering, may find in the birth of Jesus, a sign of certain hope." (Pope Francis Monthly Intention)



25 *Blessed Christmas!* * We pray that the people of earth may open their hearts to Christ and the gospel of peace, solidarity, and justice.
Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler (b. 1811) – Founder of the Sisters of Divine Providence

26 **Feast of St. Stephen** - first martyr of Christianity * For all those who suffer because of their faith.

Kwanzaa begins. Seven day principles for a strong African-American Nation include: Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work, Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose and Creativity * We pray for an acceptance of all persons as children of God.

27 **Feast of the Holy Family** * We pray for the unity of all families, especially those separated by war, violence, and/or poverty.



28 **Feast of the Holy Innocents** * We pray for all those children living in poverty situations, for the freedom of conscripted child soldiers, for children who are human trafficked victims.



29 **Sr. Thea Bowman** (b. 1937) – Religious leader to all, especially African Americans * We pray for our African American brothers and sisters.

Massacre at Wounded Knee (1890) * We pray for our Native American brothers and sisters.

30 We pray in gratitude for peacemakers and justice seekers of the world.
Edward Hubble announced the existence of other galactic systems (1924).

31 We pray in gratitude for the *blessings and the sorrows* of this year. Let us consider making a resolution for 2016 to be an advocate for those in need, especially those in need of a new home and way of life.

Happy New Year!



"We recognize from the signs of the times that now is the hour to awaken from our sleep.... Christian faith can only survive where it is activated by Christian charity."

Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler