

Peace and Justice Prayer Calendar

January 2015

Human Trafficking Awareness Month (USA)

- 1 Solemnity of Mary * Day of Prayer for World Peace
“The Globalization of Indifference, which today burdens the lives of many of our brothers and Sisters, requires all of us to forge a worldwide solidarity and fraternity capable of giving them new hope.” Pope Francis (2015) * We pray for the courage to help those who are victims of human trafficking.
- 2 St. Therese of Lisieux (b. 1873) – Carmelite Nun, Doctor of the Church *
“Merit does not consist in doing or giving much. It consists in loving much.” -- St. Therese
- 3 Blessed Damien of Molokai (b. 1840) – Patron of persons with skin diseases, especially leprosy *
“My greatest pleasure is to serve the Lord in his poor children rejected by other people.” -- Damien of Molokai
- 4 Epiphany of Jesus Christ to the World * We pray in gratitude for the diversity of cultures in our country.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton * For the Sisters of Charity and the contribution of Catholic schools to our society.
- 5 St. John Neumann * We pray for immigrants, especially those in detention camps and their families.
- 6 “Four Freedom Speech” (1941) by President Franklin Roosevelt.
Roosevelt proposed these four fundamentals that people everywhere ought to enjoy 11 months before the U.S. declared war on Japan: They are freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.
We pray that all people will experience these freedoms
- 7 Charles Peguy (b. 1873) – Poet, Essayist *
“He who does not bellow the truth when he knows the truth makes himself the accomplice of liars and forgers.” –Charles Peguy
We pray for the end of the death penalty and for the repose of the souls of Robert Holsey, Paul Goodwin, and Leon Taylor executed in December in the USA.
- 8 We pray “that in this year, dedicated to Consecrated Life, religious men and women rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.” Pope Francis Monthly Intention
- 9 First hot-air balloon flight in the US lifts off in Philadelphia, piloted by Jean Pierre Blanchard (1793) * In thanksgiving for all the conveniences that modern day aeronautics advances have given us.
- 10 League of Nations (founded 1920) * We pray that the successor, the United Nations, be a force to help governments deal with violence especially perpetrated by ISIS and help countries deal with the problems of Climate Change
- 11 Baptism of Jesus Christ
Guantanamo Prison opened (2002) * We pray for the prisoners of Guantanamo.
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day (USA) * For the victims of human trafficking

- 12 Haiti Earthquake 2010 * We pray for all victims of natural disasters especially the peoples of Haiti, the Philippines, the USA West Coast.
- 13 We pray for Eve Tetaz and Nashua Chantal who will be arraigned today for civil disobedience during the November 23 Rally to Close the School of Americas. We pray in gratitude for the success of this 25th protest at the Gates of Fort Benning in Columbus Georgia.
- 14 Martin Niemoeller (1892) - Theologian in Germany. Best known for the poem, First They Came
 First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist.
 Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
 Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew.
 Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. (b. 1929) – Civil Rights Leader, well known for his, “I Have a Dream” speech (1963), Nobel Peace Prize (1964)
 We pray for Charles Warner in Oklahoma and Richard Vasquez in Texas, scheduled for execution, for the victims and their families. We pray for all prisoners on death row.
- 16 We pray in gratitude for the exoneration and release from death row of Kwama Ajau for a 1975 murder conviction (150th exoneration since 1973) We pray in gratitude for the release of Debra Jean Milke after 22 years on death row in Arizona.
- 17 We pray “that those from diverse religious traditions and all people of goodwill may work together for peace.” Pope Francis Monthly Intention
- 18-25 Christian Church Unity Octave Theme: “Jesus said to her “Give me to drink” John 4:7
- 18 We pray for unity among Christian Churches. We pray for the respect of human life from conception to natural death.
- 19 Martin Luther King Service Day * We pray for the end of Racism.
- 20 “May God, Who teaches us to welcome each other and calls us to practice hospitality, grant us peace and serenity as we move forward on the path of Christian Unity.” Christian Unity Liturgy Intention (CULT))
- 21 Feast of St. Agnes, martyr We pray for the end of the death penalty and for Arnold Prieto scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim and their families.
- 22 Day of Prayer for the legal protection of the unborn March for Life in D.C. Theme: Each of us is a masterpiece of God’s creation” We pray that all people experience the fullness of life.
- 23 “God of eternal compassion, teach your children that charity, hospitality and unity are expressions of your revelation and will for humanity.”(CULT) We pray for Christian Unity.
- 24 “God of Eternal compassion, in the name of your Son Jesus who as a stranger asked for a drink from the Samaritan woman, give us living water springing up unto eternal life.”(CULT)
- 25-31 Catholic Schools Week Theme: “Catholic Schools: Community, Faith, Knowledge and Service.”

- 25 “God of eternal compassion, who spoke to us through creation, then through the prophets and then through your Son Jesus, grant us wisdom to listen to your voice that calls us to unity in our diversity”
- 26 We pray that students, teachers, staff and family of Catholic Schools may live out the gospel values in their daily lives.
- 27 International Day of Commemoration in memory of the Holocaust We pray for all those people who are being persecuted because of their beliefs, ethnicity , race or gender. President’s State of the Union Address. We pray for that the President and Congress work toward the common good of all.
Feast of St. Angela Merici We pray for women in leadership in the Church and religious communities.
- 28 Feast of St Thomas Aquinas We pray for all those on death row, especially Garcia White scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim and their families. We pray for theologians and teachers.
- 29 We pray for the end of the death penalty and for Richard Glossip scheduled for execution in Oklahoma, the victim and their families.
- 30 Slavery abolished in 1865. We pray for all those who have been denied their human rights. Gandhi martyred in 1948 We pray for peacemakers and justice seekers.
- 31 Thomas Merton born in 1915 We pray in gratitude for the life of Thomas Merton And may the many celebrations of his 100th birthday bring us to value a life of contemplative prayer and action for peace and justice.