Peace and Justice Calendar
December 2026

HIV/AIDS Awareness Month: Focuses on education, prevention, and reducing the stigma surrounding HIV. Let us be open to the plight of all those who suffer from HIV.
Universal Human Rights Month: Promotes fundamental human dignity, equality, and justice. May we treat each person we meet as a child of God.
Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Awareness Month: Brings attention to seasonal depression and mood shifts caused by reduced sunlight and shorter winter days. Let us be patient with those who suffer from this disorder.
Safe Toys and Gifts Month: Raises awareness about choosing age-appropriate and safe toys during the heavy holiday shopping season. May all the adult buyers of children's toys purchase with peace, safety and justice in mind.

1 Today is the UN's World AIDS Day and today is also "Giving Tuesday". Today is the anniversary of the day that Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat and was arrested in Montgomery, AL in 1955. May our efforts today unite us with all those who have made a difference in making our world a better place.

2 Today is the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Let us not forget the pain and horror enslaved people of the past and present have endured. Our sensitivity to this cruel practice demands that we recognize each person's right for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as members of the human family of God.

3 Today is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Let us recall that each person is created differently abled, with unique gifts and talents, spreading the good news of God's love.

4 Sundown today is the beginning of Hanukkah which ends at nightfall on **Saturday, December 12th**. The eight-day festival starts on the 25th day of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar, featuring the nightly lighting of the menorah. The Hebrew word of Hanukkah means dedication and marks the win of the Jewish Maccabees over foreign rulers when a small jar of oil burned for eight days instead of one. Today is also the anniversary of the founding of the American Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia in 1833. Let us do our part to support those who work for the freedom of those held captive around the world.

5 Today is the death anniversary of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's 1st Black President (2013). May the efforts of freedom in South Africa continue to enlighten all peoples around the world to work for true freedom.

6 Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent and the feastday of St. Nicholas. He was born in southern Turkey in the 3rd century. He used his inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the poor. Nicholas is recognized and venerated everywhere, making him a symbol of the unity in the Christian tradition. Let us give thanks for all the Kris Kringles of our lives.

7 Today is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and the feastday of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. May all Church leaders promote peace and justice efforts across the world.

8 Today is the Feastday of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today is also celebrated as Bodhi Day: The Buddhist holiday commemorating the day the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, experienced enlightenment. Let us honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and ask her to intercede for people of all faiths and traditions, especially our Buddhist brothers and sisters.

9 Today is the feastday of St. Juan Diego, a Nahua peasant and Marian visionary. He is said to have been granted apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe on four occasions in December 1531. May we reverence and honor all indigenous peoples' faith and devotions to our Creator God.

10 Today is the feastday of Our Lady of Loreto. According to pious tradition, angels transported the Nazareth house across the Mediterranean Sea in the late 13th century to save it from destruction or capture during the Crusades. It is housed inside the grand Basilica of the Holy House (Basilica della Santa Casa) in Loreto, Italy, drawing millions of pilgrims. May we give thanks for the home of Mary as well as our earthly home where we can experience God's love and giftedness.

11 Today is the feastday of St. Damasus I, Pope. He was the bishop of Rome from October 366 to his death in 384. He presided over the Council of Rome of 382, which established the canon, or official list, of sacred scripture. Let us treasure the sacred Hebrew and Christian scriptures that nourish our hearts and minds.

12 Today is the feastday of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary appeared to Juan Diego in December, 1531. She looked like an Aztec princess and spoke his native language. Her request was for a church to be built on Tepeyac Hill so she could show her love to all people. May we listen to God's Spirit deep within our hearts so as to know how we are to proclaim the Good News to all peoples.

13 Today is the 3rd Sunday of Advent and it is also the anniversary of the ordination of African-American Wilton D. Gregory, Bishop for Chicago in 1983 who was later made the Archbishop of Washington, DC. Let us pray for all cardinals and bishops that they may lead their flock to Christ.

14 Today is the feastday of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church. Influenced by the older Carmelite nun Teresa of Ávila, he joined the Carmelite Order and was instrumental in the founding of the Discalced Carmelites, who wished to return to the stricter observances of the original Carmelite rule. His formulation of the spiritual life into the purgative, illuminative, and unitive ways, separated by the dark nights of sense and soul, has been highly influential in the Catholic spiritual tradition. Let us give thanks for this saint whose influence has helped us in our faith journey to God.

15 On this day in 1791 the Bill of Rights became law, guaranteeing the rights of all U.S. Citizens. May our present-day government leaders become more attuned to the needs and rights of all our citizens.

16 On this day in 1976 Andrew Young was the 1st African-American appointed Ambassador to the UN. Let us give thanks for all those who serve as ambassadors, working for justice and peace around the world.

17 Today on this date in 1996, Pierre Toussaint was a Haitian slave, hairdresser and philanthropist, brought to New York City by his masters in 1787. He sheltered and educated orphans, fostered children, and aided sick people during yellow fever and cholera epidemics. He was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II. May our prayers aid his canonization and give hope to all Haitians living in the USA.

18 On this day in1865 the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the U.S. went into effect. Let us continue to pray for those who are caught in all forms of slavery today especially those who are trafficked.

19 On this day in 1891, Charles Uncles SSJ, was the 1st Black priest ordained in the U.S. He was born in Baltimore to free parents, and was ordained in 1891. He co-founded the Society of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, also known as the Josephites. Let us continue to support the wonderful works of the Josephites with our prayers.

20 Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent. On this day in 1860 South Carolina seceded from the Union, initiating the Civil War. May we work diligently for peace among warring groups through our synodal efforts and prayers.

21 Today we celebrate the Winter Solstice, the first day of winter, and on this day in 1956 there was the integration of the Montgomery buses. It is also the feastday of St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church. May St. Peter Canisius intercede for all those who work for equality in every method of transportation.

22 Today in 1943 W.E. B. Du Bois became the 1st African-American member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. He was an African-American sociologist, writer, historian, and Pan-Africanist civil rights activist. Let us do all we can to continue to struggle to gain civil rights for all in every aspect of our government.

23 Today is the Feastday of St. John of Kanty, Priest (1390-1473). He was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. May we learn to live a simple life that offers us freedom and inner peace on life's journey.

24 Today is Christmas Eve. Many families attend evening or midnight church services, share special meals (like the Feast of the Seven Fishes), and leave out treats for Santa Claus. May the beginning of these holy of holy days open our hearts and minds to receive the "birth" of love in our hearts, community and families.

25 Today is Christmas. It is celebrated globally by billions of people, both religiously and culturally, marking the birth of Jesus Christ or serving as a secular winter festive holiday. Today is the anniversary of the birthday of our Founder: Bishop Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler in 1811. May Bishop Ketteler bless us with a renewed love and commitment, reflecting the birth of God within our hearts.

26 Kwanzaa Begins today and ends of January 1st. This is an African-American and Pan-African holiday celebrating family, community, and culture across seven core principles. This was developed by Dr. Mulana Ron Karenga in 1968. Today is also the Feastday of St. Stephen, the first martyr. Let us honor and support all our African-American brothers and sisters through our prayers and concern.

27 Today is the Feastday of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Today is the opening of our Provincial Chapter of Affairs and Elections. May the Holy Family be our guide and source of inspiration throughout our days of chapter.

28 Today is the Feastday of the Holy Innocents. Let us continue to pray for those children around the world who are innocent, mistreated and abandoned. May adults come to their assistance.

29 Today is the 5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord. It is also the Feastday of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr. Let us offer to our Provident God all of our concerns and needs as we continue to celebrate the Birth of Christ in our hearts.

30 Today is the 6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord. May God bless all the efforts of those participating in our Provincial Chapter with inner peace and vision.

31 Today is New Year's Eve. This is the global celebration marking the end of the year, famous for countdowns, fireworks, and midnight drop events like the one in New York City's Times Square. Today is also the Feastday of St. Sylvester I, Pope and the anniversary of the death of legendary Roberto Clemente in 1972 in a tragic airplane crash. May God bless our new Provincial Leadership Team and guide us as an international congregation into the future each and every day of this coming New Year.