




Peace and Justice Prayer Calendar

January 2016

Human Trafficking Awareness Month (USA)
Jubilee Year of Mercy



- 1 **World Day of Prayer for Peace ** Feast of the Solemnity of Mary**
“Overcome Indifference and win peace” “Peace is the sign of the Jubilee of Mercy. In the Spirit of the Jubilee of Mercy, all of us are called to realize how indifference can manifest itself in our lives and to work continually to improve the world around us.” ((Pope Francis Message of Peace 2016)
- 2 **St. Therese of Lisieux** (b. 1873) – Doctor of the Church; Patron of Missionaries, HIV/AIDS sufferers, florists, and gardeners * We pray for all those who suffer from life-threatening illnesses.

- 3 We pray for Divine protection to all migrants, particularly those who are driven from their homes due to war and violence or who are uprooted due to environmental degradation, climate change, or material poverty.
- 4 **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** * We pray that all children throughout the world will be able to go to school.

- 5 U.S. President Nixon signs a bill for NASA to begin research on a manned space shuttle. * We pray in thanksgiving for all we have learned and are still learning about our vast universe.
- 6 **Epiphany/ Three Kings Day** (Puerto Rico & throughout the Latin World) * We pray in solidarity with our Puerto Rican & Dominican Republic Communities. “We pray “that sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.” Pope Francis Monthly Intention

- 7 **Orthodox Christmas** * We pray for all Orthodox Christians
For Oscar Bolin scheduled for execution in Florida, the victims, and the families affected * We pray for the end of the death penalty.
- 8 **St. Maximilian Kolbe** (b. 1894) - Volunteered to die in place of another prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp * We pray for all who sacrifice their lives for others.
President L.B. Johnson proposes: “War on Poverty” - Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 Legislation * We pray that the US Congress will consider the needs of the most vulnerable when making decisions.



9 Rigoberta Manchu (b. 1959) - 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Winner * We pray in gratitude for all peacemakers.

10 League of Nations founded (1920) * We pray that the Agreements signed by 196 nations in Paris to limit the human effect on climate change will be funded and carried out.

11 *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day* * We pray for all victims of Human Trafficking



Guantanamo Prison opens in 2002. * We pray for the closing of the prison and for the safety of its prisoners, especially those on hunger strikes.

12 Haiti Earthquake (2010) * We pray for all those recovering from natural disasters
State of the Union Address by President Obama * We pray for the Spirit's guidance on the president and congress.



13 In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we pray for the ability to be merciful to all, especially those in need of God's Mercy, such as those on death row.

14 We pray for the repose of the souls of Marcus Johnson, Brian Keith Terrell, Jerry Correll, and Raphael Holiday executed last year in the USA.

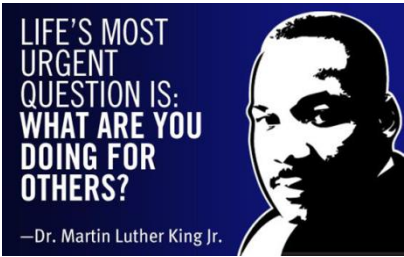
15 President Reagan signed legislation (1986) - making Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday to be celebrated on the third Monday of January.

16 Religious Freedom Day * We pray for understanding and tolerance of peoples of different religions, especially between Muslims and Christians.
1st War in Iraq (1991)

17 We pray for victims of violence and their loved ones, especially the victims of San Bernardino, CA.
Benjamin Franklin (b. 1706) * For all the people who help the U.S. to have just laws and who rectify them when they are not.

January 18-25 * Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
"Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord" (Peter 2:9)





18 Martin L. King Jr. Day of Service * The MLK Day of Service inspired hundreds of thousands of Americans to come together to make 2016 the start of a Year of Citizen Action.

- * Volunteer to Learn to Expand Your Knowledge Base
- * Donate Goods/ Funds to Benefit Others
- * Advocate to Inspire Others
- * Connect to Create a “Beloved Community” of MLK.

19 We pray “that by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.” Pope Francis Monthly Intention

20 We pray for the end of the death penalty and for Richard Masterson scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim, and the affected families



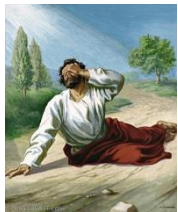
21 St. Agnes of Rome – Martyr, Patron of young people and gardening * We pray for our youth, the future of our world.
We pray for Christopher Brooks scheduled for execution in Alabama, the victim, and the affected families.

22 March for Life in D.C. Day of Prayer for the legal protection of the unborn child.



23 We pray for all Christian Churches and Faith Communities that they may be faithful witnesses to the Gospel proclaiming the mighty acts of the Lord.

24 We pray for the various ecumenical dialogues our Church and other denominations that they bear witness to the quest for Christian Unity.



25 Conversion of St. Paul

Jewish Feast of Tu Bishvat/Tu B'Sheat “New Year for Trees” Join our Jewish friends in eating one of the traditional fruits. (Grapes, figs, olives, pomegranates, dates) * We pray in gratitude for the fruits of the earth’s trees,

26 World Day of Leprosy (UN) * We pray for all those suffering diseases which cause disfigurement and isolation or rejection by others.

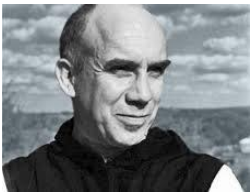
27 International Day of Commemorating the Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (UN) - Auschwitz liberated in 1945.
We pray for all those on death row especially James Freeman scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim and the affected families.

28 **St. Thomas Aquinas** - Doctor of the Church, theologian, prolific writer * Thomas once said, *“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”*

29 **Oprah Winfrey** (b. 1954) – Philanthropist, actress, publisher * We pray in thanksgiving for all the impoverished girls who are being educated in Africa due to Oprah’s Foundation.



30 **Mohandas Gandhi** martyred (1948) * We pray in gratitude for peace makers.



31 **Thomas Merton** (b. 1915) - Poet, spiritual writer, inspiration to many. Pope Francis described Merton as *“above all a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certitudes of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the church. He was also a man of dialogue, a promoter of peace between peoples and religions.”* The monk’s contribution to America’s cultural reserves, the pope said, falls under our capacity to pursue dialogue.



Excerpts from Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace Message

“At the beginning of this New Year, which we welcome as God’s gracious gift to all humanity, I offer heartfelt wishes of peace to every man and woman, to all the world’s peoples and nations, to heads of state and government, and to religious leaders. In doing so, I pray for an end to wars, conflicts and the great suffering caused by human agency, by epidemics past and present, and by the devastation wrought by natural disasters. I pray especially that, on the basis of our common calling to cooperate with God and all people of good will for the advancement of harmony and peace in the world, we may resist the temptation to act in a manner unworthy of our humanity.”

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“We know that God will ask each of us: What did you do for your brother? (cf. Gen 4:9-10). The globalization of indifference, which today burdens the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters, requires all of us to forge a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity capable of giving them new hope and helping them to advance with courage amid the problems of our time and the new horizons which they disclose and which God places in our hands.”