



## Advent Calendar 2021

Every year during Advent we are invited by the prophets to dream that another world is possible – a world of peace, dignity, equality, safety, tenderness, beauty. Spend some time this Advent dreaming of that world. A wonderful tool for dreaming is the encyclical letter of Pope Francis *Fratelli Tutti*. Consider using it for your Advent reading and dreaming. It can be found online at this link

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa->

### November

*“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combating the structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labor rights. . . Solidarity, understood in its most profound meaning, is a way of making history.” FT, 116*

**28 First Sunday of Advent** Find a photo or a piece of art that speaks of hope and possibility to you and place it near your Advent wreath.

**29** Try to share a positive or hopeful news story with others this week.

**30** Place a dish of soil near your Advent wreath to remind you to make peace with our precious planet by choosing to live more sustainably. Soil is possibility; what seeds will you sow there?

### December

**1** Feast of Blessed Charles de Foucauld “The one thing we owe absolutely to God is never to be afraid of anything.”

**2** International Abolition of Slavery Day –Contribute to the abolition of slavery by buying Fair Trade goods as Christmas gifts.

**3** As you write Christmas cards, say a prayer for the recipients that their hope and sense of possibility will be renewed.

**4** Churchwomen of El Salvador (+1980) “In El Salvador, a country named for the Savior, they lived an Advent life, waiting for Christ to arrive amidst the grave suffering, injustice, and violence.” Annie Wim

*“We believers are challenged to return to our sources in order to concentrate on what is essential—worship of God and love for our neighbor—lest some of our teachings, taken out of context, end up feeding forms of contempt, hatred, xenophobia or negation of others. The truth is that violence has no basis in our fundamental religious convictions, but only in their distortion.” FT, 282*

**5 Second Sunday of Advent** Sit by your Advent wreath and journal about what a more just, peaceful, and verdant world would look like. Think of one thing you could do to push that dream a step closer to being realized.

**6** Anniversary of the death (2002) of peace activist Philip Berrigan, “We Christians forget (if we ever learned) that attempts to redress real or imagined injustice by violent means are merely another exercise in denial-denial of God and her nonviolence towards us, denial of love of neighbor, denial of laws essential to our being.”

**7** Feast of St. Ambrose, “If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the person with no shirt.” Clean out your closet today and give to those who suffer the systemic violence of poverty.

**8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** “Mary in the beauty of the evangelical path and service to the common good of humanity and the planet, always teaches us to listen to these voices, and she herself gives voice to the voiceless, to give birth to a new world.” Pope Francis.

Today by tradition the Sister of Charity renew their vows. Renew your commitment to “give birth to a new world.”

**9 Feast of St. Juan Diego** “Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to build up the kingdom by reminding poor people that they are worthy of an apparition.” Mark Zwick

**10** Today is UN Human Rights Day. Reflect on a human right that you cherish and pray/act for those who are deprived of this right.

**11** This weekend many houses of worship celebrate a “Gun Control Sabbath.” Encourage your place of worship to do so.

*“Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth, which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.” FT, 8*

**12 Third Sunday of Advent** The color of the Advent candle is rose because that is the color of the dawn sky. Where do you see signs of the dawning of a new world in your heart; in our history?

**13** Yesterday was the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Gaze at her image and pray to be, like her, a bridge between cultures.

**14** Feast of St. John of the Cross “If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road pregnant with the holy, and say, ‘I need shelter for the night, please take me inside your heart, my time is so close.’”

**15** Think of ways you can give yourself rather than things as a gift this Christmas.

**16** “People will approach their work for justice in different ways; lighting small fires wherever they are. Ultimately the small fires will catch.” Mary Ann Coyle, SL

**17** (1936) Today is the birthday of Pope Francis. Give thanks for the multiple ways in which he reminds us that a better world is possible.

**18** Pray Mary’s Magnificat. Renew your hope in her vision of a world where the hungry are filled with good things.

*“A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of what in every city and country can be called ‘social friendship.’ Genuine social friendship within a society makes true universal openness possible.” FT, 99*

**19 Fourth Sunday of Advent** Pray for expectant parents today and advocate for just pre-natal and maternal health care and for parental leave for new parents.

**20** Spend some time in prayer thinking about your closest relationships. Have circumstances caused you to take them for granted? What can you do to show your appreciation and affection?

**21** Winter Solstice-Light a candle and pray in thanksgiving for the sun and the gift of fire and light.

**22** Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si*: “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” Do I see conserving water, eliminating plastics, turning off unnecessary lights, eating less meat, as acts that foster the possibility of a better world?

**23** “Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.” Arundhati Roy

**24** Pray before the manger and let the vulnerability of God soften and disarm your heart and awaken your hope to the possibility of another world.

**25** Pray the song of the angels of Bethlehem in sync with the rhythm of your breath...Peace on earth...good will to all.

**Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity**

**Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth**

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