

December 20 – 24, 2020

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

LIGHT THREE PURPLE CANDLES AND ONE PINK CANDLE.

“I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance.” Is. 7:10–14

The first reading speaks of the promise to all God’s faithful. After reading this line we recall migrants and refugees who know in their hearts that God has promised a place for them to dwell without disturbance. May our actions of welcome and calls for justice be examples of our faith to all. The second reading is the closing of St. Paul’s letter to the Romans. In it he reveals not only the mystery of God’s promise, but the reality that it is meant for *all* believers, not just Jews...just as the promise of security and food is meant for all God’s people, especially migrants.

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

Luke 1:28

So, we have two readings proclaiming God’s promise to all, and now Luke shares the story that God’s promise is made *real* in a lowly, humble woman. The Lord is with her!! This promise will come to fruition in a *woman* (a scorned gender then and now) of *color* (middle eastern descent, judged still) who will be *migrating* (labeled criminal), with her family for safety. God among us has chosen to come to our world through a humble, wandering immigrant and refugee. How many humble migrants have opened your eyes to the world as it should be? How are you preparing the world for the gifts that they bring? Pray to Our Mother, Mary, for strength for the journey of immigrants. ([Link](#))

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus, you are God’s promise, fulfilled for the faithful. May all who wait for your coming be open to the different ways you enter our lives. Surprise us with Joy, strengthen us with Hope, and lead us in Love to be your messengers for our country and world. Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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We have been seeking compassionate, comprehensive immigration reform since 2005. In this 15th year of the journey may we accompany and welcome our immigrant sisters and brothers through prayer, reflection, and action. Learn more about policies and how to take legislative action at justiceforimmigrants.org.

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Pray for migrants and refugees that we may open our hearts to welcome them and that we may work for compassionate immigration reform, we pray...

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Our Lady of Guadalupe is honored in many ways this week. Learn how to care for her children - migrants and refugees. ([Link](#))

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

the Posada is a custom that recalls the journey of Mary and Joseph to find shelter and refuge. Read the stories of migrants who also journey for shelter and refuge. ([Link](#)) Reflect on how we can make room for them.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Read Pope Francis’ latest encyclical Fratelli Tutti (10/3/2020) and join us virtually as we pray for our family in detention or deportation. ([Link](#))

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NATIONAL PASTORAL MIGRATORIA

ADVENT REFLECTIONS 2020



November 29 – December 5, 2020

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

LIGHT ONE PURPLE CANDLE.

"We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands."

Is. 64:7

Advent is a time of waiting and pause. Advent 2020 is that and more! The words *waiting* and *pause* have new meaning for us. The pandemic has made it clear, all are vulnerable. Pope Francis calls us to unite scientific capabilities "to find vaccines and treatments." (April 19, 2020) So, we wait for a vaccine; we pause and reimagine new ways to live in community. But in this waiting and pause, refugees and immigrants are at even more risk. They are at risk in their homeland, forced to flee, and they are also at risk in detention centers in the United States. The pandemic suspended an already challenging processes for asylum seekers, expelling them before they can make their requests. ([Link](#))

"You do not know when the time will come."

Mk 13:33

When will the time come when we are safe from Covid-19, able to embrace each other? Even after that time comes, the world will look different, molded by God's hands.

Are we 'living clay' in God's hands? Is God forming us before our eyes to be a people of faith *and* action? What kind of clay do we want to be? This Advent let us be formed by God's hands as we wait and pause.

LET US PRAY

Creator God, shape us into your image. Mold us to be all embracing during this time of caution. Help us to recognize your handiwork in all creation, especially in immigrants, and refugees. May we be formed by the events around us, learning how to be your loving embrace and feet of action. Amen.

December 6 – 12, 2020

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

LIGHT TWO PURPLE CANDLES.

"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way."

Mk 1:2

We imagine the world as it should be, how God dreams it would be, "...on earth as it is in heaven." Yet we live in a *world as it is* and know it is not just. We need to be the messengers. Are we preparing a place where migrants are welcomed and valued? Or are they judged by the color of their skin, harassed over the way they speak? Are they embraced and trusted or labeled criminals and thugs? Mark writes of the messenger, John the Baptist. In the end preparing the way cost John his life. How will we prepare the way for migrants in need? How will we make it on earth as it is in heaven?

The USCCB has a video [Different Ways You Can Support Migrants in Your Community During Covid-19](#). Scripture says to welcome the stranger. This video shows us how to do just that! It is our responsibility, by virtue of our baptism, to be God's messengers for righteousness and justice.

"But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

2 Pt 3:13

Prepare the way for a new earth...for the world as it should be.

LET US PRAY

Loving God, as John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, may we be the voices of our time, calling for justice and righteousness. Strengthen us to see when we missed the mark and sinned against those who need our help the most. Guide us as we work to make it on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

December 13 – 19, 2020

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

LIGHT TWO PURPLE CANDLES AND ONE PINK CANDLE.

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'" Jn 1:23

Today is Gaudete Sunday - the day of Joy. We are halfway through Advent and can almost see the end - *God among us*. This image of almost reaching the end and of a voice crying out in the desert mirrors migrants searching for a better life. Their journey can be Joyful at the end if we have prepared for them. They know that God has endowed them with life and dignity. How do we honor that?

"He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners..."

Is 61:1

This reading focuses our eyes on another joyful goal: God's righteousness and justice is promised and is near. We imagine the prophet proclaiming this to a blind and deaf nation. And we hear the call to follow in Jesus' footsteps, to bring glad tidings and heal the brokenhearted. But have we ever viewed immigrants as the ones healing our broken hearts? They have certainly caused us to re-evaluate the meaning of 'liberty'. Maybe we are the captives...not free until all are free. Have we been blind to our prison being broken open by migrants?

Be filled with Joy and live as Joyful people. Cry out that the time is near when God's justice will prevail.

LET US PRAY

Oh God of Joy, we listen for your voice which promises your justice. We hear the voices of our migrant family and know that our freedom is bound up in theirs. Help us to use our voice for justice, to be beacons of hope to all migrants and proclaimers of justice for all. Amen.