

ABSOLUTELY ADVENT!

A TEEN'S JOURNEY
TO CHRISTMAS
2021 

For Teens





First Monday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29

In days to come
 the mountain of the LORD's house
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains...
 Many peoples shall come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob;
 that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths."
 He shall judge between the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.

« ISAIAH 2:1-5 »



War and peace are huge, but they can be encountered on a smaller scale; for example, at school. Our Catholic social teachings include the **right** to an education and a safe environment. But all **rights** carry **responsibilities**.

Consider these rights. **Write an "S" before rights you need to survive, and a "C" before rights you need to be a contributing member of society.**

- _____ **EMPLOYMENT**
- _____ **BASIC HEALTH CARE**
- _____ **FOOD**
- _____ **SHELTER**
- _____ **EDUCATION**
- _____ **CLOTHING**
- _____ **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**
- _____ **GOODS TO SUPPORT A FAMILY**

What personal responsibility do you take or will you take to insure that you and your classmates have a safe school environment?



Second Friday of Advent

DECEMBER 10

When you were born, you were born with “Instructions Inside”—inside your very being. But you may still be living with the belief that “if all else fails, read the instructions”! When you reach that point, something has already gone wrong. So when you are in a complicated situation, remember the words and examples of wise people in your life, recall lessons from your religious instruction, search your conscience, pray. Look and listen for what God offers.

*“I am the LORD your God,
who teaches you for your own good,
who leads you in the way you should go.”*

« ISAIAH 48:17 »

Your sweater has a label with instructions for proper care; your clock has operating instructions. **Write out a label with instructions on how you want people to treat you.**



What are some signs in your life that God is teaching you, leading you, instructing you?

Five Ways to Celebrate Rights and Responsibilities

- 1 When you purchase a new item of clothing, donate an item from your closet.
- 2 Serve a meal at a local shelter or community meal program.
- 3 Look for someone who is new to your school. Who is sitting alone at the lunch table? Welcome the stranger.
- 4 Visit an elderly person in a local nursing home.
- 5 Help someone at your school who is having trouble with homework. Serve as a tutor.



Our Role Model in Faith

DOROTHY DAY



Dorothy Day was born in 1897 in Brooklyn, New York. After struggling to find herself and her true calling in life, she met Peter Maurin, an activist who worked on behalf of the poor. Dorothy and Peter started a newspaper that provided a voice to the voiceless—*The Catholic Worker*, founded in 1933. During the Great Depression, Dorothy and Peter opened a House of Hospitality, which provided meals to poor people in New York City. More of these houses opened, and some developed into communal farms.

Dorothy Day is considered one of the twentieth century's greatest advocates for the poor. She opened her home to those in need. Finally, she became a great peace advocate, especially during World War II and the Vietnam War. Dorothy Day truly lived the message of Jesus from Matthew 25. She also gave us a great example of the principle of rights and responsibilities.

Let us pray

Provider God, you give us what we need to live. Yet, you remind us that we have brothers and sisters who do not have enough to eat or drink, who do not have clothes to wear, and who do not have shelter for their heads.

You challenge us to see our responsibility as Christians to feed, house, visit, and welcome. Give us the strength and courage to accept your challenge. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and companion. Amen.



Third Saturday of Advent

DECEMBER 18

The prophet Jeremiah was a messenger. He brought a message of hope to the people of his time. Through Jeremiah, God told the people that they would have a wise, just, and honorable king. Five hundred years after Jeremiah, that King, the Messiah Jesus, was born.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called:

“The LORD is our righteousness.” « JEREMIAH 23:5-6 »

Jeremiah’s message of hope was a vision or expectation that held the people together. That long, constant commitment to a shared vision or a common good is called **SOLIDARITY**.

If the goal is a just and peaceful society, list attitudes and actions you think are necessary to achieve that goal.



How do you see yourself contributing to a just and peaceful society?

Solidarity may be understood in this way. A losing sports team goes out on the playing field hoping for a victory. When this does not happen, the players renew their hope and expectation for a win in the next game. It’s a shared goal, a shared vision. Win or lose, they’re in it together!



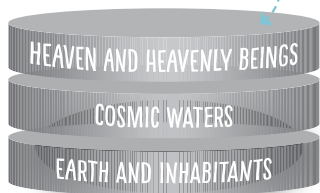
Fourth Tuesday of Advent

DECEMBER 21



This psalm is a hymn of praise. And what prompted this exuberant praise? Just and faith-filled people had an awareness that the world came into being by the hand of God.

When this psalm was written, the world was portrayed like this



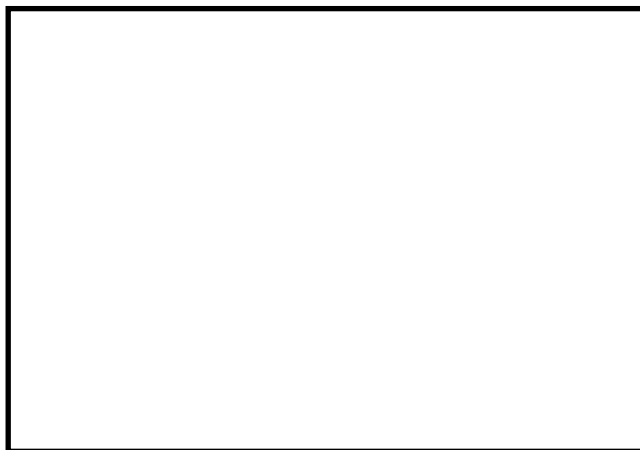
Illustrate the world as you know it today.

*Praise the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.*

*Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and shield.*

*Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.*

« PSALMS 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 »



Write your own prayer in praise of God's creation.