

ABSOLUTELY ADVENT!

A TEEN'S JOURNEY
TO CHRISTMAS
2022 

For Teens





First Wednesday of Advent

NOVEMBER 30 ★ SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." **What do you think she meant by this?**

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. « MATTHEW 4:18-22 »

Write a short dialogue in which Jesus calls you and two or three friends to follow him. What does Jesus say to you? What do each of you ask or say in reply?

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Second Tuesday of Advent

DECEMBER 6 ★ SAINT NICHOLAS



EVERY sheep belongs to a flock. Which principle of our Catholic social teaching captures that idea?

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. « MATTHEW 18:12-14 »

This Scripture passage describes God as a shepherd who would search for any one of us when we stray and as a loving and caring God who is joyful at our return.

Write a brief story that describes how you know God's love and care for you.

Now describe at least two ways you can share that love with others. Follow through on your ideas.



Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 11

Jesus' response to the poor and vulnerable was miraculous!

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." « MATTHEW 11:2-5 »



In the word search, circle the vulnerable people whom Jesus helped.

N	B	L	K	D	C	P
D	L	E	P	E	R	S
E	I	N	N	A	B	P
M	N	R	L	F	P	O
G	D	E	A	D	O	Y
Y	M	T	M	K	O	S
J	P	K	E	T	R	W

Who are "the poor and the vulnerable" in your community?
What actions can you take to help?

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The best way to fulfill one's obligations of justice and love is to contribute to the common good according to one's means and the needs of others, and also to promote and help public and private organizations devoted to bettering the conditions of life.

■ *The Church and the Modern World, #30*

The obligation to "love our neighbor" has an individual dimension, but it also requires a broader social commitment to the common good. We have many partial ways to measure and debate the health of our economy: Gross National Product, per capita income, stock market prices, and so forth. The Christian vision of economic life looks beyond them all and asks, Does economic life enhance or threaten our life together as a community?

■ *Economic Justice for All, #14*

The word **common** is used in many ways. Someone might say, "That person has a lot of common sense and just knows what to do in every situation." Or, "Seeing an orangutan walking down a city street is just not a very common sight." But the meaning of the term **common good** is clear—a good that is shared or beneficial to all members of a community. Jobs that pay just wages, adequate food for all people and safe drinking water for every man, woman, and child—all contribute to the common good. Torture or bullying are never good for anyone and do not contribute to the common good.

Sometimes it is a challenge to know what the common good is. This is where discussion comes into play. Living in community and discussing shared hopes and dreams help us to recognize the common good and make it a goal of the community.

Pick one of the communities to which you belong—your family, school, group of friends, town, or city. Name three values that you think members of this group hold in common.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

How are its members contributing to the common good of this group?

GOD CALLS ALL OF US TO BE PROPHETS FOR THE COMMON GOOD, TO STAND FOR WHAT IS RIGHT, AND TO REMIND PEOPLE OF THEIR UNITY WITH ALL OF HUMANITY. YOU MAY FEEL THAT YOU ARE TOO YOUNG OR THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE THE GIFTS AND TALENTS FOR THIS TYPE OF LEADERSHIP. BUT FOR THE COMMON GOOD TO BE REALIZED IN OUR WORLD TODAY, IT WILL TAKE YOU, THE YOUNG CHURCH, TO TAKE UP YOUR ROLE AS PROPHETS. **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO SPEAK THE TRUTH!**



Fourth Friday of Advent

DECEMBER 23 ★ SAINT JOHN OF KANTY

A messenger in our time might be someone who sends a text message, makes a phone call, writes for a newspaper or blog, or is a TV news reporter. Whenever there is an announcement, a sign, or news report, people can anticipate or prepare for what is to come—whether the event is a guest for dinner or a tornado sweeping the area.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. « MALACHI 3:1 »



Many scholars see the “messenger” referred to in this Scripture passage as an angel sent by God. This same description of a messenger is also applied to John the Baptist in Matthew 11:10 and in Mark 1:2. Read and compare all three passages.

Unscramble these words from the passage from Malachi and write the words in the boxes. Letters in the shaded boxes spell out the word that will complete the sentence at the bottom of the page.

KESE									
GMCNOI									
PEMLTE									
EGTHDIL									
EDIGNSN									
NACONVTE									
GENSEMERS									
ENDIDE									
SHTOS									
DYNESUDL									

A good messenger can help people to achieve