



Weekly Justice Challenges

2026 (Year A)

Place these justice challenges in your bulletin or on your website to encourage parishioners to embrace just living.

Please add the following when including in your bulletin or posting on your website or social media page:
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November 30, 2025 • 1st Week of Advent

The first reading for this Sunday is one with which we are familiar. It is the passage from the Book of Isaiah (2:1-5) describing what the world will be like when the Messiah comes. The image of people beating swords into plowshares—taking instruments used to kill people and changing them into instruments which help grow food to feed people—is a powerful one. Your challenge in this first week of Advent is to spend some time reflecting on how you are peacemakers (as a family and as individuals). Do you bring people together by your words and actions or do you create conflict? Then decide on one action you can take to make the world a more peace-filled place. Do you want to pray for peace in our world, our country, and our families? Do you want to write to government leaders to advocate for a more peaceful approach to a particular issue? Do you want to take a stand for more gun control? How do you want to bring peace?

December 7, 2025 • 2nd Week of Advent

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is from the prophet Isaiah. It includes these words: “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together...There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy land; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord...” (Isaiah 11:1-10). Isaiah portrays a powerful image of cooperation and peace in this reading. Your challenge this week is to go to the Catholic Relief Services website, read a real-life story of people helping people, research the work which CRS is doing to bring peace and justice to our world, and choose one action you can take as a family or household to support the work of this great organization (www.crs.org/peacebuilding).

December 14, 2025 • 3rd Week of Advent

Sunday’s Gospel has Jesus answering the question of who he is by stating: “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them” (Mt. 11:2-11). Jesus equates his very identity with care for the poor and marginalized. Your challenge this week is to identify the blind, the lepers, and the poor in your life. Discuss one particular person in need whom God is calling you and your family to serve. Select an action you can do

for this person, just as Jesus did. And remember that Pope Francis said that having a friend who is poor is a pathway to heaven. So... just do it!

December 21, 2025 • 4th Week of Advent

We celebrate the Incarnation on Thursday—God taking on human flesh and becoming one of us. This is the ultimate act of solidarity. Jesus embraced humanity in all of its joy and in all of its suffering. He truly became “one of us.” We are called to be one with each other as Jesus is one with us. Your challenge during this final (short) week of Advent is to ask yourself which part of God’s community you are disconnected from. With whom does God *want* you to stand in solidarity—locally or globally? Say a prayer every night this week for this person or group of persons.

December 28, 2025 • Holy Family

The first week of January is National Migration Week. Mary and Joseph and Jesus were refugees when they fled to Egypt to escape the persecution by Herod. They know what it is like to be strangers in another land. Your challenge this week is to honor those who migrate by educating yourself on the reality and reasons for migration. Go to the United States Bishops’ website (<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/>) and learn about migration through the lens of faith. Then choose one concrete action recommended on the Bishops’ website which you can do to stand with refugees in today’s world. Or, if you have migrants or refugees in your own community, determine one thing you as a family can do to support them.

January 4, 2026 • Epiphany

This week we commemorate the Epiphany, the story of the wise men from the east paying homage and bringing gifts to the Infant Jesus. Their presence in the stable reveals that Jesus came for all people, not just the Jewish community. But the faith of the wise men was almost thwarted by Herod, who sought to destroy the baby he had heard was born. Your challenge this week is to reflect on how often you turn to violence—violent words, violent actions, violent feelings—when you feel threatened by someone. Make a personal commitment to respond to other people’s anger or hate or meanness with nonviolence. Pledge to make love the underlying motive and foundation on which you resolve your conflicts.

January 11, 2026 • Baptism of the Lord

The first reading for the Baptism of the Lord has the Prophet Isaiah proclaiming that the Messiah “shall bring forth justice to the nations”. Jesus fulfilled that passage by being a person of justice and teaching his disciples that all people deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity, including the poor, the sick and lame, the outcasts and sinners. Your challenge this week is to find a way to say “yes” to your baptismal call, just as Jesus said yes to his. What is Jesus calling you to do to live out your baptism? What injustice in your family or community or world are you being called to combat? And what can you do to help end it?