



Weekly Justice Challenges

2027 (Year B)

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

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November 29, 2026 • 1st Week of Advent

Justice Challenge: The Sunday Gospel draws us into the Season of Advent, challenging us to prepare ourselves and our world for Christ's coming. The Advent readings focus on many images of the messiah in the Old Testament. The prophets particularly describe the messiah as one who will bring peace to our troubled world. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, fulfills their prophecies. Your challenge this week is to follow in Jesus' footsteps by being a peacemaker yourself. How can you create peace within your own heart, within your family, in the community, and even in the world? Spend time in prayer, letting the peace of Christ penetrate your being. Then bring together people you know who are fighting, inviting them to see the goodness in each other. And finally, pray for peace in the most troubled spots in the world. Where is conflict most volatile and hateful? Pray for the people who live there and for their leaders to have the courage to be peacemakers rather than peace-breakers.

December 6, 2026 • 2nd Week of Advent

Justice Challenge: The Responsorial Song for Sunday sings of justice and peace kissing when the Messiah comes. The psalmist proclaims, "Justice shall walk before him..." So many Scripture readings remind us that one of the best paths to peace comes through achieving justice—making sure everyone has what he or she needs to live a life of dignity and hope. Conflict often begins when people are denied their basic human rights. Your challenge this week is to discuss as a family or household what you think connects justice and peace. Then choose one act of justice which you can do to bring more peace to our world. What is God calling you to do this week—in your immediate family, in your parish or school, in your community, or even in the world itself—to help someone secure the human rights they have been denied? And remember that we Catholics believe they deserve these rights, not by earning them or buying them or even achieving them, but because they are part of the human family, just like you and me, created in God's own image and likeness.

December 13, 2026 • 3rd Week of Advent

Justice Challenge: December 18 is International Migrants Day. Migrant workers are often denied basic human rights—the right to a just wage or to safe working conditions or to benefits. They often have no voice in the decisions that affect their lives. Your challenge this week is to learn more about the work of the Catholic Church of the U.S. with Migrants and Refugees. Go online at www.usccb.org/mrs. Read some of the information provided by the

Bishops' Conference about the issue of migrants and refugees and how it connects to our Catholic faith. Then click "How to Help" and choose one action on behalf of migrants that you, as a family, would like to take. Perhaps you want to read a statement by our U.S. Catholic Bishops or do advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees. You may want to volunteer or get your parish mobilized to help. It doesn't matter what you choose to do; stand in solidarity with your brothers and sisters who move from farm to farm, from place to place, to find work just so they can feed their families and live in hope.

December 20, 2026 • 4th Week of Advent

Justice Challenge: In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the angel inviting Mary to become the mother of the Messiah. Mary worried about doing this without breaking her promises to God. The angel replies with the story of Elizabeth, who was with child even though she was beyond childbearing age. The angel states, "...for nothing will be impossible for God." Your challenge this week is to bring the Good News of Jesus and his message of possibility to someone weighed down by darkness or despair—due to illness, financial stress, relationship problems, or whatever. As a family, choose one person—or one family—who needs you to remind them that with God, nothing is impossible. How can you help "liberate" this person or family from whatever is keeping them from living a free and full life?

December 27, 2026 • Feast of the Holy Family

Justice Challenge: One of the most beautiful messages of Christmas is that of peace. The prophets of the Old Testament hoped in a Messiah who would bring peace to a war-torn world. And that is what Jesus did. In the Incarnation, we experience God's desire for all human persons, for all families and communities, and for all of creation (even lions and lambs) to live in harmony with each other. The angels proclaimed "peace on earth, goodwill to all" at Jesus' birth. Your challenge during this Christmas Season is to be people of peace in your actions, words, and thoughts. Can you make it through the week without starting any fights or arguing with your family or co-workers? Can you share quiet moments of conversation instead of frantically running here and there? Can you rest peacefully in God's arms in your prayer time? What are ways you can be peacemakers instead of peace-breakers in your relationships during this special time of year?

January 3, 2027 • Epiphany

Justice Challenge: In Sunday's Gospel we hear the story of the "astrologers from the east" who came to pay homage to the Infant Jesus. They remind us that Jesus was a universal Savior. He came to redeem all of us, including lepers, tax collectors, and prostitutes. He even reached out to the hated Samaritans, although the law forbade any contact with them. Your challenge this week is to explore how open you are to the "Samaritans" in your life—those people who are different from you in their faith, their ethnicity, their politics, or their lifestyles. Then do two things. First, find something you share with this group. Recognize your common humanity. Second, learn one new thing about this group that you didn't know before, which is worth celebrating. It might be a prayer practice you could embrace, or a recipe for their food that you