

# JRS/USA ADVENT CALENDAR

Take time each day this Advent to walk in solidarity with refugees and displaced persons through moments of prayer, reflection, and advocacy. It's an opportunity to see Christ revealed through God's people and it's a journey worth taking.



As we start our journey through Advent, may we offer our prayers for all refugees and displaced persons.

1

Offer a prayer for all those, including refugees, who have been impacted by COVID-19, especially for families that have lost loved ones and feel the strain of separation.



2



During this time of social distancing, reflect on ways that you can still show solidarity with those who have been forced to flee.

3

From Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti: "I realize that some people are hesitant and fearful with regard to migrants. . . people are only fruitful and productive if they are able to develop a creative openness to others." How can we move beyond our fears?

4

Offer a prayer for all those who serve refugees. May their work be blessed and continue to uphold the dignity of the most vulnerable among us.

5



Reach out to your local parish, community center, or refugee resettlement agency. Inquire about opportunities to support refugee families. Or as you shop for holiday gifts, consider buying a refugee-made product.

6



The changing climate is affecting the livelihoods of many people across our globe. Offer a prayer for those displaced by climate change.

7

Join JRS in our prayer of the Holy Family, as we especially remember those who have been turned away in times of great need.



8



Maria is a young mother who fled from Honduras to find a better life for her children. Offer a prayer for all young mothers like Maria who are searching for a better life for their children.

9

Read and reflect on Matthew 2:13-15 — Imagine being a part of this scene. How does it play out in modern day?

10

Most refugees are forced to make a split-second decision as they flee from their home. What one item would you grab if you were forced to flee your home?

11

On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron Saint of the Americas, offer your prayers for all asylum seekers at the U.S.'s southern border that they may find safety, security, and refuge.



12

Many refugees that are resettled in the US do not arrive prepared for a colder climate. Consider connecting with a local agency to donate a winter coat that will supply families in need of winter clothing.

13

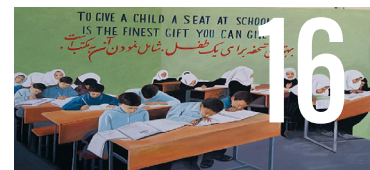


Reflect on these words from Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti: "Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: welcome, protect, promote and integrate." How can we live out these four words today?

14

Fleeing from your home is a traumatic experience. Offer a prayer for all those in need of psychosocial support and mental health care, and for their caregivers.

15



16

Offer a prayer for all school-aged refugee children, especially for those who are unable to attend school, especially during this global pandemic.

Read and reflect on Exodus 22:20— In what ways do we oppress the stranger? How can we show greater hospitality?



17

Offer a prayer for fair and safe access to education for children.

18



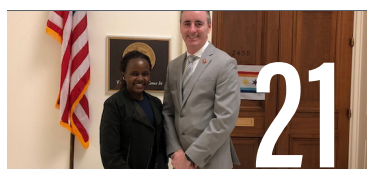
Offer a prayer for our teachers, who work to provide students with a quality education during this difficult time.

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20

Pray for our leaders and decision makers, that they may listen to the stories of refugees and that their policies may prioritize refugees.



21

Send a letter to your elected officials and urge them to demonstrate leadership on refugee issues.

Offer a prayer for peace and reconciliation, that our divided communities may find healing.

22



23

Read and reflect on Hebrews 13:1-2 — In what ways may you be entertaining angels this Christmas?

As we await the birth of Jesus, offer a prayer for all children who have been separated from their parents. Pray for the reunification of all families.



24