

# MERCY Peace & Justice CALENDAR

January 2025

*Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 (VA)*

*International Year of Peace & Trust (UN)*

*International Year of Cooperatives (UN)*

*National Slavery and Human Trafficking  
Month (USA)*



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- 1 **A Blessed 2025!**  
**Feast of the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**

**World Day of Prayer for Peace (VA)**

*Theme: Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace*

We pray for "a peace that is granted by God to hearts disarmed: hearts not set on calculating what is mine and what is yours; hearts that turn selfishness into readiness to reach out to others..." Pope Francis



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- 2 We pray "for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to education, which is necessary to build a better world, might be always respected"  
Pope Francis's Monthly Intention



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- 3 **Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus**  
**First Friday Prayer and Action against the Death Penalty** We pray that the death sentences of the 40 federal prisoners are commuted to life without parole by the president.

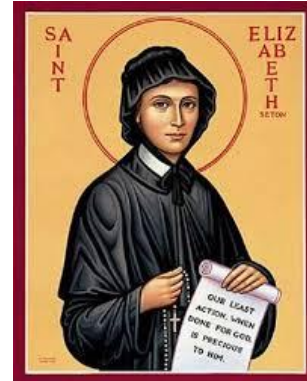


**4 Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Patron of Catholic Schools**

We pray for the teachers, staff, students, benefactors of Catholic schools, and all Sisters of Charity.

**World Braille Day (UN)**

We pray for those who are blind



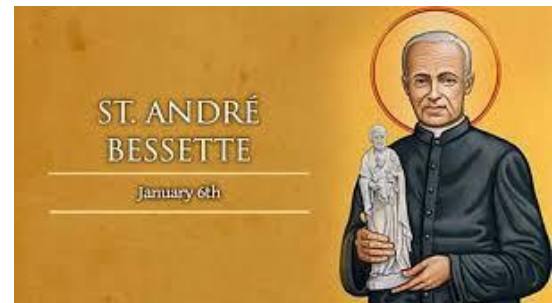
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- 5 **Feast of the Epiphany (Día de Los Reyes)** We pray with gratitude for the diversity of cultures in our country.

**Feasts of St. Syncletica, Desert Mother & St. John Neumann, patron of immigrants**



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- 6 **Feast of St. Andre Bessette, Holy Cross Religious and Patron of caregivers**

We pray for first responders, health care workers, family caregivers.



**Violent Mob Sieges Congress (2021)**

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all elected officials.



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- 7 **Orthodox Christmas**

We pray for tolerance among all religions.

- 8 We pray for those on death row and for the repose of the souls of Christopher Leroy Collings and Carey Dale Grayson, executed in the USA in December and November, respectively.



- 9 We pray for the 11.6 million children living in poverty in the USA.

- 10 We pray for peace in Ukraine, Syria, Nicaragua, Gaza, Israel, Iran, South Korea.
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- 11 **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day (USA)**

We pray for the end of human trafficking. Wear Blue today to show your support. *Theme: Connecting the Dots, Strengthening Communities, Preventing Trafficking*

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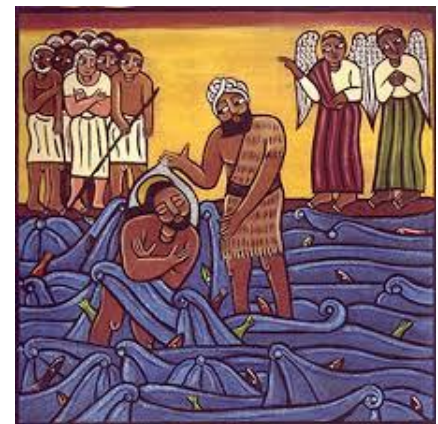
- 12 **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**Earthquake in Haiti in 2010**

We pray for the people of Haiti and the end of the violence and political upheaval.

We pray for the closure of Guantanamo Bay Prison (opened 2002) and for justice for its 30 prisoners.

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- 13 We pray for those recovering from natural disasters: fire in the USA, floods in Pakistan & India, Africa
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- 14 We pray for the end of violence in our schools and for the people of Madison, WI and the survivors of the Abundant Life Christian School Shooting (Dec 16, 2024)
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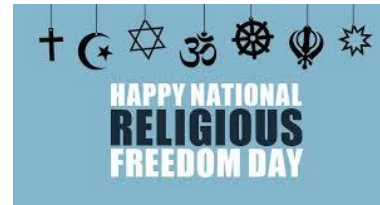
15 **Feast of the Black Christ of Esquipulas**  
We pray for the people of Central America / Abya Yala



**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr (born in 1929)**  
We pray for the end of Racism

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16 **National Religious Freedom Day (UN)**  
We pray that all people are free to worship God in peace.



**Gulf War begins in 1991**  
We pray for all those who were killed or injured in this War.

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17 We pray for the end of nuclear weapons.

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18-25 **Christian Unity Octave**  
*Theme: Do you Believe? John 11:26*  
\* Intersessions below



18 \* Father of Compassion, renew our faith in you and bind us together through your love, so we can recognize each other as your children.

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19 **Fiesta Señor Santo Niño, feast celebrated by the Filipino people.**  
We pray for the people of the Philippines.



## **Pax Christi Peace Sunday**

*Theme: Forgive us our trespasses; grant us peace* We pray for world peace.

\* Father of lights, strengthen our hearts in expectation and hope as we work for unity together seek harmony of all creation.



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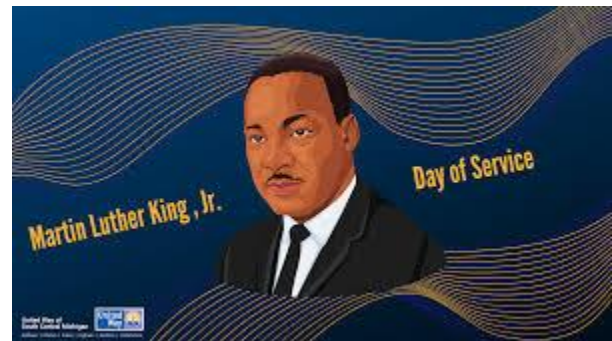
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## **20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service observed**

### **Inauguration Day**

We pray for the courage of newly elected officials to work for the common good.

\* We pray for the unity of all Christians.



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## **21 Feast of St. Agnes**

\* May we never turn away from those in need. We pray that as we travel through life, we may stop and reach out, bind up the wounded, and, in so doing, experience your presence in them.



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## **22 Feast of Bl Laura Vicuna**

We pray for children and women in abusive relationships

### **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (Roe v Wade, 1973)**

We pray for expectant mothers and the unborn.



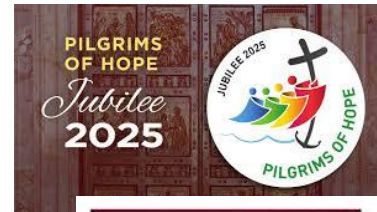
**23 Feast of St. Marianne Cope OSF  
(Syracuse, NY missionary to lepers)**  
We pray for all missionaries.

\* Let us rejoice in the Holy Spirit, who renews the face of the earth and draws us towards unity.



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**24-26** We pray for the success of the Jubilee 2025 Celebration of World Communicators in Rome.



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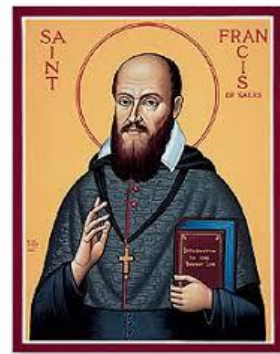
**24 Feast of St. Francis De Sales**  
We pray for the Visitations.

**International Day of Education (UN)**

We pray that all children have access to education.

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of the marchers in the Right to Life March in Washington, D.C.

\* God, accept our thanksgiving for the unity Christians already enjoy in the confession of Jesus as Lord. Hasten the day, we beg you, of full mutual recognition of our churches.



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION**

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**25 Conversion of St. Paul**

We pray for the safety of the participants of the Walk for Life on the West Coast.

\* May the Church be a faithful herald of the victory of Christ, your Son, over death and a beacon of expectation for his return in glory.



26 **Sunday of the Word of God**

We celebrate, study, and disseminate the Word of God.



**International Clean Energy Day (UN)**

We pray for an increased use of wind and solar energy over fossil fuels.

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1/26 - 2/1

**Discover and Celebrate Catholic Schools Week**

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27 **Feast of St. Angela Merici**

We pray for the Ursulines and all those who work for equality for women and girls in society.



**International Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)**

We pray for the end of antisemitism.



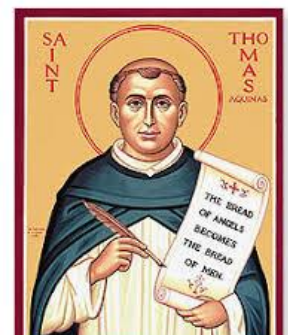
**Islamic Feast of Lailat al-Miraj** celebrates Muhammad's ascension to heaven.

We pray for the end of Islamophobia.



28 **Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of Catholic schools**

We pray for teachers, students, and staff of Catholic schools.



**Vietnam War ceasefire in 1973**

We pray for those suffering the effects of war.



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**29 Lunar New Year (Year of the Snake)**  
We pray for immigrants in the USA.



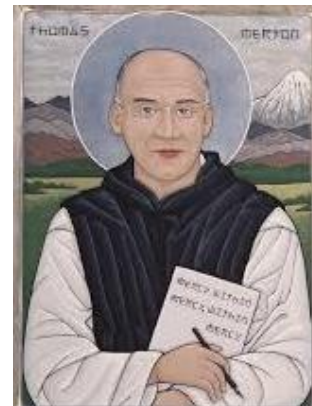
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**30 Birth of Saul Alinsky (1909-1972), founder of modern community organizers**  
We pray for community organizers and leaders and for the end of violence in our communities.



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**31 Feast of St. John Bosco "Apostle of Youth"**  
We pray for those who are responsible for nurturing the youth of the world: parents, teachers, coaches, relatives and mentors.



**Thomas Merton OCSO born in 1915**  
We pray for peace makers and justice seekers.

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A special note of gratitude for Sister Jean Murin, for all of her work gathering the information for our Mercy Peace and Justice Calendar.

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