



# Martha Justice Ministry Advent Calendar 2022



Dear Sisters and Friends,



The season of Advent is such a beautiful time to reflect, to share, and to ground ourselves spiritually. It coincides well with colder, shorter days as we shift into a different pace in our lives. We certainly cherish this time to enjoy loved ones and to nurture our spirits, with so many concerns that occupy our hearts and minds.





We are reminded during Advent of the importance of hope in our lives and our faith. These are heavy days and the challenges we are facing can be overwhelming. However, our faith calls us to live as what Pope Francis calls “social poets,” creatively bringing the fullness of grace to the world through prayer, solidarity, peace, and justice. We can find our hope and inspiration in being part of something beyond us alone – the beauty and wonder of creation and the voices of so many calling for and acting for change.

This Advent, we pray that we can ground ourselves in the spirit of hope, love, and solidarity and share that spirit with those around us!

Peace to you all,

Darlene O’Leary, Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry

Sunday November 27	Monday November 28	Tuesday November 29	Wednesday November 30	Thursday December 1	Friday December 2	Saturday December 3
 <p><b>First Sunday of Advent: Hope</b> <b>Isaiah 2:4</b> “...they shall beat their swords into plowshares...nation shall not lift up sword against nation...”</p>	<p>As we enter Advent, reflect this week on what gives you hope in our fractured world.</p> 	<p>For almost 10 years, the <b>Martha New Growers program</b> has brought young people together with mentors to learn about sustainable organic farming. Learn more about the New Growers: <a href="https://www.themarthas.com/martha-new-growers-program.php">https://www.themarthas.com/martha-new-growers-program.php</a></p>	<p>Indigenous youth and communities are leading the way in protection of the Earth’s biodiversity and in climate solutions.</p> <p>Learn more about <b>Indigenous Climate Action</b>: <a href="https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com/">https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com/</a></p>	<p><b>World AIDS Day</b> We find hope in the persistence of those working for justice, peace, and dignity for all.</p> <p>We hold in prayer those living with HIV/AIDS and working to end the spread and stigma.</p>	<p>We pray for the youth of this world crying out for real leadership to address the climate and ecological crises.</p> <p>Support in prayer the <b>Fridays for Future</b> rallies for climate justice.</p>	<p><b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b></p> <p>Reflect on ways that we can work for equity and access for all in our community. Learn about the Council of Canadians with Disabilities: <a href="http://www.ccdonline.ca/en/">http://www.ccdonline.ca/en/</a></p>

December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8	December 9	December 10
 <p><b>Second Sunday of Advent: Love</b> <b>Romans 15:7</b> “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”</p>	<p>Take time this week to pray and reflect how we show our love and open our hearts to those in need.</p> 	<p><b>National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Violence Against Women</b></p> <p>Hold in your prayers the memory of the 14 women killed in Montreal’s École Polytechnique in 1989 and pray for an end to violence against women.</p>	<p>The <b>Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty</b> works for policies and programs that address root causes of poverty, food insecurity, housing, and other needs in our community. Learn more about our work: <a href="https://www.endpovertyantigonish.ca/">https://www.endpovertyantigonish.ca/</a></p>	<p>Across the world, more and more people are forced to flee their homes due to violence and unsafe conditions, including climate impacts.</p> <p>Learn more from the <b>Canadian Council for Refugees</b>: <a href="https://ccrweb.ca/en">https://ccrweb.ca/en</a></p>	<p>The <b>UN Conference on Biodiversity (COP15)</b> is taking place in Montreal in December, and we will be there. We pray for leadership by Canada to protect land, water, and species at risk. Learn more: <a href="https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15">https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15</a></p>	<p><b>Human Rights Day</b> This year marks the start of a year-long campaign leading up to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2023. Learn more: <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/campaign/human-rights-day">https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/campaign/human-rights-day</a></p>
December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17
 <p><b>Third Sunday of Advent: Joy</b> <b>Luke 1:46b-47</b> "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."</p>	<p>Take time to reflect this week on what brings you joy and the power of joy to heal our hearts and spirits.</p> 	<p>Creation is a source of constant beauty, inspiration, and life-giving joy.</p> <p>Take time to be present to the natural world through prayer, walking in the woods or gardens, or listening to the call of the birds.</p>	<p>Pope Francis has called for us to care for our common home and has inspired the <b>Laudato Si Movement</b> and a new documentary called “<b>The Letter: A Message for our Earth.</b>”</p> <p>Watch “The Letter” here: <a href="https://theletterfilm.org/">https://theletterfilm.org/</a></p>	<p>The beautiful friendship between the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who fought apartheid in South Africa, and the Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, is such a source of wisdom, inspiration, and joy.</p> <p>Learn more about the book and film, <b>Mission: Joy</b> <a href="https://missionjoy.org/">https://missionjoy.org/</a></p>	<p>The wonder of this universe is being revealed to us in new ways with the images from <b>Nasa’s Webb telescope</b>. Take time entering deeper in cosmic wonder: <a href="https://globalnews.ca/news/9288701/james-webb-telescope-images-converted-sounds/">https://globalnews.ca/news/9288701/james-webb-telescope-images-converted-sounds/</a></p>	<p>Music is such a source of joy and can inspire and call for social change.</p> <p><b>Playing for Change</b> brings together musicians from around the world uniting people through music. Listen here: <a href="https://www.playingforchange.com/">https://www.playingforchange.com/</a></p>

December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24
 <p><b>Fourth Sunday of Advent: Peace</b>  <b>Matthew 1:21</b> "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."</p> <p><b>International Migrants Day</b>  Learn more about migrants' rights:  <a href="https://migrantright.ca/">https://migrantright.ca/</a></p>	<p>Peace seems so elusive in our world, but we know that our faith calls us to continue to work of building and sharing peace.</p> <p>Reflect on how you bring peace into your heart and your community.</p>	<p><b>Development and Peace</b> has partnered for over 50 years with people in the Global South working for justice and peace.</p> <p>Learn more about Development and Peace campaigns and partners:  <a href="https://www.devp.org/en/">https://www.devp.org/en/</a></p>	<p><b>Winter Solstice</b>  The start of winter marks shortest day of sunlight this year. The darkness slowly opens to light. Enjoy this time for rest and contemplation.</p> 	<p>The <b>Beatitudes Center for the Nonviolent Jesus</b> was started by Fr. John Dear and offers conversations and reflections on peace in our world.</p> <p>Learn more about the work of this centre:  <a href="https://beatitudescenter.org/">https://beatitudescenter.org/</a></p>	<p>The <b>Center for Contemplation and Action</b>, led by Fr. Richard Rohr, highlights the importance of action for justice and peace grounded in a contemplative practice.</p> <p>Learn more about the centre's programs:  <a href="https://cac.org/">https://cac.org/</a></p>	<p><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p><b>Luke 2:10</b> "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people..."</p> 
<p>December 25  Christmas Day!  Peace and Blessings to All!</p>						