

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION: JUSTICE AND PEACE

Second Sunday of Advent • Year A • December 7, 2025

Loving God,
John the Baptist
preached in the desert
and helped prepare the way
for your coming.

Wherever I go
in the week ahead,
help me to prepare the way
for your coming
by doing deeds of love
and by speaking words of
peace.
Amen.



Sunday Word

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



1. The prophet Isaiah spoke of those who would normally be enemies living together in peace as friends.
2. The Apostle Paul encourages believers to welcome one another and to be of one mind and heart.
3. John the Baptist preached in the desert, calling people to repent and baptizing with water. He spoke of the One to come.

Key Teachings



Prepare the Way!

Just as John the Baptist called people to prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord, we too are called to prepare for the Lord's coming by turning from sinful ways to God's ways of justice and peace.

Justice and Peace

Justice reigns when all relationships are in harmony with God's will and Law, with a special focus on concern and care for the poor and weak. Peace flows from our friendship with God and is not simply the absence of war and violence. Peace is also our total well-being of body, mind, and spirit.

Faith Words



justice

Justice is the virtue, or good habit, of treating everyone fairly, with love, care, and respect.

peace

Peace is one of the signs, or Fruits, of the Holy Spirit. Disciples of Jesus cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit to create peace throughout the world.

Catholic Relief Services

The Catholic Church here and throughout the world works for peace and justice. In 1943, the Catholic bishops of the United States founded Catholic Relief Services. Catholic Relief Services provides help to people during emergencies and helps to fight disease. Its workers and volunteers preach the Gospel of justice and peace by their actions. To learn more, go to crs.org.

With My Family



We Listen

We meet John the Baptist in today's Gospel. Every year, on the second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel tells us a story of John the Baptist. John's main message is to repent—to change our hearts. He wants us to repent so that we can be ready for the coming of the Lord. He also proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven. The First Reading from Isaiah tells us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

We Believe

Justice and peace are signs of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is also called the Kingdom of God. What are other signs of the Kingdom of Heaven?

We Live As Disciples

Doing works of justice and working for peace help to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. Read the **Faith Words** on this page. Then name two good works you will do this week—a work of justice and a work for peace. See the Activity Page for some suggestions.

We Pray

Gather around the Advent wreath and light two of the purple candles. Have a member of your family read today's First Reading, Isaiah 11:1-10. Ask everyone to close his or her eyes and listen to the reading. When the reading is over, ask each person to describe the picture he or she imagined as the reading was proclaimed. How is this picture like the Kingdom of Heaven?

Works of Justice, Works for Peace

A With My Family Advent Activity Page

Here are some examples of works of justice and works for peace that your family can do this week and throughout the Advent season. Choose one Work of Justice and one Work for Peace to do this week. Choose more to do during the remainder of Advent, too, or come up with your own family activities of justice and for peace.

Works of Justice

- One of the most important things you can do is to educate your family on justice issues. Visit the Catholic Relief Services website and choose one of their options for getting involved in justice issues like global poverty, hunger, and education. Visit crs.org.
- Find out where you can buy “fair trade” items in your community. Food and goods marked as “fair trade” help to provide workers with fair wages and fair working conditions.
- Caring for creation is a work of justice. Choose an action or an activity that your family can do to show you care about God’s creation. Try this: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- Treating all people with respect and dignity is a work of justice. Reach out to someone who is different from you and your family. Visit a neighbor who is from another culture or someone who may have a disability or someone who looks different than you do.
- Education helps to bring about justice. Volunteer to help struggling students at your school. Or volunteer to help at the public library.



Works for Peace

- End a conflict or a grudge in your own family.
- Be kind to someone who makes you mad.
- Contact your local domestic violence shelter and ask how you can make a difference.
- Stand up to someone who is a bully. Help someone who may be a victim of bullying.
- Learn the Prayer of Saint Francis (the words are on the back of this page).
- Find out what your parish does to promote peace and nonviolence. Ask how you can help.
- Parents, visit the United States bishops’ website to learn about the Church’s efforts to promote peace and justice throughout the world. Go to www.usccb.org/about/international-justice-and-peace/index.cfm. Talk to your children about what you learn.

The Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.