

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

RESPECT LIFE- JUSTICE & PEACE-PARISH ORGANIZING-RESTORATIVE JUSTICE-CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109-6602 • PHONE (415) 614-5570 • FAX (415) 614-5568

WWW.SFLIFEANDJUSTICE.ORG

NATIONAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MONTH 2015

Week 1 - Sunday November 1, 2015

We pray for Victims and Survivors of Violence.

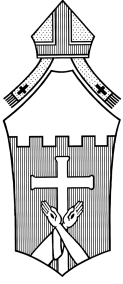
Matthew 5: 1-12a

Solemnity of all Saints.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Prayers of the faithful:

- 1) For the victims and survivors of violence all over the world, especially our friends and loved ones, who may have been hurt recently or in the past and are in need of healing. May God touch their wounded hearts and souls with His healing hands and infuse hope for a brighter future in their lives.
- 2) For all victims and survivors of violence who struggle with taking revenge into their own hands, turn their despair into hope, their hate into love and their anger into joy. Help them seek to be reconciled with those who have caused them harm, and to forgive those who have trespassed against them.
- 3) For all doctors, nurses, therapists and counselors who come in contact with those victimized by all kinds of abuse and injury; that God may empower them to use their training and skills to help and heal them.
- 4) For all those affected by violence; that God may help them overcome all trauma, paranoia and mental damage caused by the violence they have experienced.
- 5) That Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will join all those suffering from their experience of crime, and all those who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit, to His own sorrowful passion.



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Week 2 - Sunday November 8, 2015

We pray for prisoners & formerly incarcerated people and their families.

MARK 12: 38-44

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury"

Prayer of the faithful:

- 1) For all the incarcerated people in prisons and jails throughout our nation. May God shed His abundant mercy on all the offenders and prisoners behind bars, as well as those ex-offenders who have been released.
- 2) For all prisoners suffering with a sense of hopelessness, despair and guilt. May the Lord shine His face upon them and bring them out of darkness so that they may come to a sincere, heartfelt repentance and change their sinful ways.
- 3) For the family members of those in prison; that they receive consolation and courage to carry on in life and stay in communication with friends and family who are incarcerated, and that they seek to contact family members of the victims and strive for forgiveness and mutual solidarity.
- 4) Lord Jesus, you have said that you came to set the captives free. We pray that you bring our incarcerated brothers and sisters close to you, stand by them in their trials, and give them the strength to rehabilitate themselves.



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Week 3 - Sunday November 15, 2015

We pray for the reform of our nation's Criminal Justice System so that it becomes more restorative and less punishing in its solutions to solving crime.

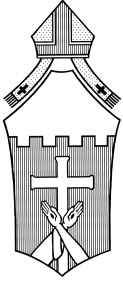
MARK 13: 24-32

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds'"

Prayer of the faithful:

- 1) For the immediate changes needed in our nation's criminal justice system, a system that imprisons disproportionate numbers of inmates of color; that eyes and hearts may be opened in those who are able to make changes necessary to address the evils inherent in the prison system in the best way possible.
- 2) That God's healing grace and compassionate understanding be bestowed upon all ministers who bring hope, love and faith to those who have been victimized by crime and those who have been incarcerated.
- 3) That Our Lord Jesus Christ, who created all human beings in His own image and likeness, will continue to inspire and transform the lives of the men and women who volunteer their time in prison ministries, to become channels of peace to all prisoners living behind bars.
- 4) That the God of Justice inspires legislators to abolish unjust laws and focus their energies on improving the educational and criminal justice systems to reduce recidivism.



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Week 4 - Sunday November 22, 2015

We pray for the Community's Response to Violence and its willingness to play its role within the Restorative Justice Model.

JOHN 18: 33B-37

Solemnity of Christ the King

"My kingdom does not belong to this world."

Prayer of the faithful:

- 1) For the welfare of our families, the foundation of our communities, and for the return of the family to the role of the Divine institution that it was created to be.
- 2) For our children, that they are taught God's precepts and commandments and prepared to love God and to love one another as themselves, and that they may willingly obey His laws.
- 3) That new leaders emerge within our communities with the wisdom and compassion to help restore the lives of all family members affected by violence on both the victims' side and the offenders' side of the crime.
- 4) For freedom from bondage of collective fear and prejudice that plague our community; that individuals receive the calling to work for social justice and choose to become actively involved in restoring the lives of their neighbors impacted by crime, and erasing the stigma of being categorized as a victim or an offender.