

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.

1

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

5



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

9

Attend Mass or a religious service in a different language. Find ways to encounter the refugee and immigrant population within your community.



13

More than 1/2 of school-aged refugees are NOT in school. What can you do to support refugee education?



17



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

21

Read and reflect on Genesis 18: 1-8 — What lessons can be learned from Abraham and Sarah's hospitality? What strangers have entered your life, bearing good news?



2

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



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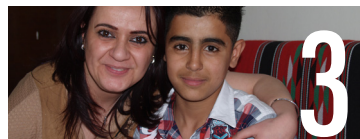
Most refugees are forced to make a split-second decision as they flee from their home. What one item would you grab if you were forced to flee your home?

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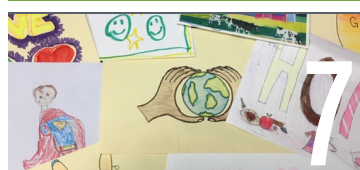
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Fleeing from your home is a traumatic experience. Offer a prayer for all those in need of psychosocial support and for their caregivers.



3

In Syrian culture, if someone visits you, it is expected that you make every effort to be as hospitable as possible. How can you show hospitality today?



7

Share a message of hope with a refugee by sending a postcard through JRS/USA's Any Refugee Program: jrsusa.org/any-refugee

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.

11

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

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When most children in the U.S. travel to school by car or bus, shoes are the vehicle for many of the children JRS serves. Did you know that \$25 provides a pair of shoes for two children in Kenya?

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

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

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.



8

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.



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16

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



20

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

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.



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