

Advent Dreaming

As the Northern hemisphere travels deeper into night, Advent reminds us that night is dream time. Advent is a time for dreaming of new possibilities for ourselves, for others, for Earth. Join us on this Advent dream journey!

November

27 First Sunday of Advent Place a symbol of your dream for peace near your Advent wreath.

28 Consider doing some simple art journaling each day in Advent. For those of us who don't consider ourselves "artists," art journaling can open us up to a level deeper than words.

29 "Here is my examination at the beginning of Advent, at the beginning of a new year. Lack of charity, criticism of superiors, of neighbors, of friends and enemies. Idle talk, impatience, lack of self-control and mortification towards self, and of love towards others. Pride and presumption. (It is good to have visitors – one's faults stand out in the company of others.) ... The remedy is recollection and silence." Dorothy Day

30 Consider your Christmas shopping in the light of these words of Richard Horsley: "Indirectly at least, the giving, hence the buying, of gifts is rooted in the paradigms of God's gift of the Christ-child and the costly gifts of the Magi. The Christmas story has clearly come to have a material significance: it helps to legitimate the festival of retailing and consumption of goods. The Christmas story has thus also become subservient to the contemporary economic ends as well as subjected to modern cultural presuppositions."

December

1 As you write your Christmas cards pray for the recipients, that they will have big dreams and the courage to make them come true.

2 Martyrdom of the Churchwomen of El Salvador (1980) "I hope you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you...something worth living for, maybe even worth dying for.something that energizes you, enthuses you, enables you to keep moving ahead. I can't tell you what it might be -- that's for you to find, to choose, to love." Letter of Ita Ford, MM to her niece Jennifer

3 "What would it mean to rediscover the biblical sense of the natural world groaning, hoping, waiting for liberation?" Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

4 Second Sunday of Advent Place a dish of earth near your Advent wreath to remind you of the vibrant community of life beneath your feet that supports you.

5 Tomorrow is the feast of St. Nicholas. Leave a small surprise gift for someone.

6 Death of Philip Berrigan (2002) "We Christians forget (if we ever learned) that attempts to redress real or imagined injustice by violent means are merely another exercise in denial — denial of God and her nonviolence towards us, denial of love of neighbor, denial of laws essential to our being."

7 Monitor your speech for violent words or expressions and ask the Prince of Peace to give you a peacemaker's lips.

8 Immaculate Conception - Read Mary's Magnificat. What is one thing you can do to make Mary's dream for the world, for the poor come true?

9 Feast of St. Juan Diego - Juan Diego identified himself as “a leaf,” something that was used for toilet paper. His encounter with Mary made him a prophet who spoke the truth to power. Pray for healing of a poor self-image that prevents you from being a prophet today.

10 This is Human Rights Day when in 1948 the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Read the declaration today and pray and act for those people for whom it is a yet unfulfilled dream.

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

11 Third Sunday of Advent Place a photo of a situation of injustice near your Advent wreath and dream of something you can do to address it.

12 Our Lady of Guadalupe “Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?” Mary to Juan Diego; Mary to us! Wrap yourself in a blanket, Mary’s mantle, and dream.

13 Read the great Advent dream of Isaiah 11. Revive your hope in that dream.

14 Take a brisk walk today and think of the people who have no other form of transportation.

15 In the depths of winter, dream of spring! Plan now to plant trees and flowering bushes at your home or in a public space.

16 “So Advent is about the coming of the Messiah to usher in his kingdom of justice, peace, and liberation. It is not a time to quake in fear at the prospect of Jesus returning in glory, nor is it a time to concentrate on the birth of baby Jesus. It is instead a time to reawaken our hope for God’s future. It is a time to pray fervently, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.” Daniel Trott

17 Today the Church begins to pray the “O Antiphons.” What new names for the Holy well up in you?

18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Place a handicraft from another country near your Advent wreath to remind you of the expansive love of God-Emmanuel that embraces the whole planet.

19 Hanukkah began last evening at sundown. Pray for peace between Israel and Palestine.

20 Pray for expectant parents and their children and for just social policies that support children and families.

21 Eat by candlelight tonight to celebrate the winter solstice.

22 Ask someone who speaks another language how to say “Peace be with you” in their language.

23 Plan to donate to a food bank after Christmas which is often the time of greatest need.

24 “Jesus of Nazareth was a creature of earth, a complex unit of minerals and fluids, an item in the carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen cycles, a moment in the biological evolution of this planet. Like all human beings, he carried within himself the signature of the supernovas and the geology and life history of the Earth.” Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

25 “Attending to Mary’s experience also allows for a celebration of her resilience in the face of social ostracism, her courage during a time of profound personal transformation, her self-care and communion with other women when she was likely not feeling well, and her prophetic voice that affirms the divine upending of social power structures as we know them. All of that is reason for great joy—even considered apart from Jesus’ birth. And so this Christmas, may we also celebrate Mary: prophetic teenager, resilient woman, wise and courageous beyond her years” Shelli M. Poe

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