

A Moment For The Missions With missionary childhood association

Thanks for joining MCA for this month's journey!

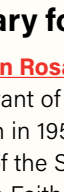
IN THIS MONTH OF DECEMBER, WHEN WE PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS, THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION (MCA) OFFERS A "MOMENT FOR THE MISSIONS" FOR EACH DAY OF THIS MONTH. THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, TO PRAY, TO ACT, TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS, AND TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE POPE'S MISSIONS. THESE "MOMENTS" CAN BE PART OF A RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM – IN PERSON OR REMOTE – OR BE THE FOCUS OF FAMILY LIFE ON A PARTICULAR DAY.

These "MCA Moments" are opportunities this month to:

- 
reflect / discuss
- 
learn
- 
take action
- 
pray
- 
stand in solidarity


DECEMBER - TUE

01



Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for Africa

The **World Mission Rosary** was envisioned by Venerable Servant of God Archbishop Fulton John Sheen in 1951, then the national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He made the request on his radio show (The Catholic Hour) that his listeners "embrace the world in prayer." To do so he introduced this Rosary, with different colors for each decade representing each of the five continents. Green reminds us of the forests and grasslands of Africa.



We begin our journey around the world in prayer this month with Africa. As we pray a decade of the Rosary, let us focus our prayers on children and families in need on this continent.

DECEMBER - WED

02



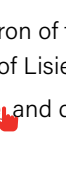
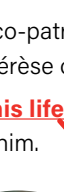
Watch the NYC Christmas tree lighting with your family or friends.

Read **Matthew 5:14-16**. Talk with your family about Jesus as the "light of the world." What darkness in our world needs Jesus' "light" today? Offer a prayer.



DECEMBER - THU

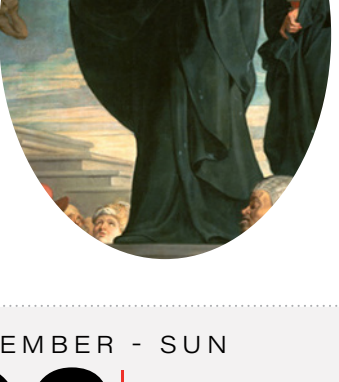
03



Saint Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier is co-patron of the Missions, with St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

[Learn more about his life](#) and do this [word search](#) about him.



DECEMBER - FRI

04



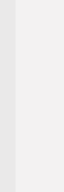
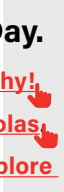
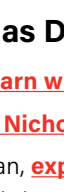
Make a homemade Nativity Scene

Be creative! You can even use candy. [Here's one idea about making a manger.](#)




DECEMBER - SAT

05



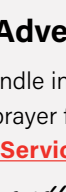
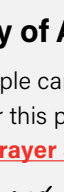
Eve of St. Nicholas Day.

Put out your shoes! [Learn why!](#) See this [lesson on St. Nicholas](#). With a parent / guardian, [explore children's needs](#) as Christmas comes.



DECEMBER - SUN

06



Second Sunday of Advent

Light the second purple candle in your Advent wreath. Offer this prayer from [The Catechist Advent Prayer Service](#).

"We light this second candle remembering the poverty of the Bethlehem manger and God's love. Lord Jesus, in love You became poor so we could be rich. Help us use the riches of Your grace to love others as You love us. O Come, O come, Emmanuel."

DECEMBER - MON

07



Donate the cost of a toy...



[...to a child in need in the Pope's missions.](#)

DECEMBER - TUE

08



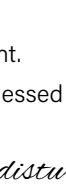
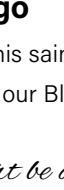
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

[Read more](#) about this Feast. [Pray](#) the Psalm for today.



DECEMBER - WED

09



Saint Juan Diego

[Learn more](#) about this saint. Read these words of our Blessed Mother to Juan Diego:

"Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."

What do these words say to you? Do they calm your worries?

DECEMBER - THU

10



Pray the World Mission Rosary for the Americas

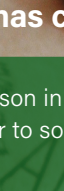
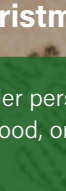
Each decade of the World Mission Rosary is a different color representing each of the five continents. Red calls to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the Americas, including the United States.



We continue our journey around the world in prayer with the Americas. As we pray a decade of the Rosary, let us focus our prayers on children and families in need on this continent.

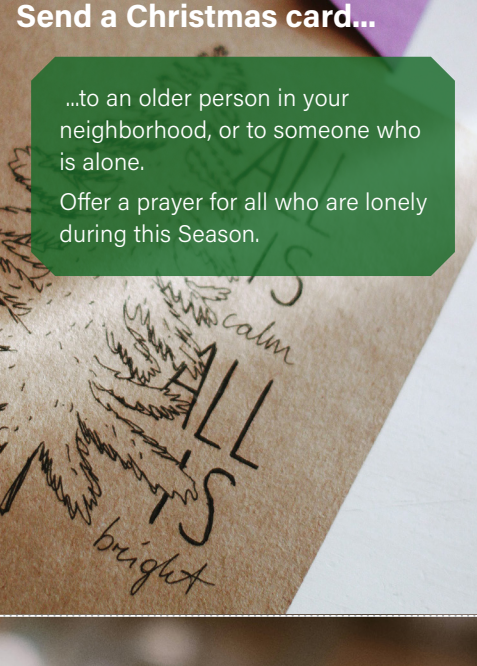
DECEMBER - FRI

11



Send a Christmas card...

[...to an older person in your neighborhood, or to someone who is alone.](#) Offer a prayer for all who are lonely during this Season.



DECEMBER - SAT

12



Our Lady of Guadalupe


[Learn more](#) about the Patroness of the Americas. Pray:

Mary, our Mother, prepare our hearts to welcome your Son, Jesus, at Christmas.




DECEMBER - SUN

13



Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)



Light the third candle in your Advent wreath – the pink candle. Offer this prayer from [The Catechist Advent Prayer Service](#).

"We light this third rose-colored candle remembering the shepherd's joy at being the first to adore Jesus. Father, help us also rejoice in the Christmas message: a Savior was born to us. Christ, the Lord. O Come, O come, Emmanuel."

DECEMBER - MON

14



Make a gingerbread house.

Pray in gratitude for missionaries who help children in the Missions to have a safe place to stay.



DECEMBER - TUE

15




Offer a prayer...

[...for those who will be far from home this Christmas.](#)




DECEMBER - WED

16



Pray the World Mission Rosary for Europe

Each decade of the World Mission Rosary is a different color representing each of the five continents. White symbolizes Europe, the home of our Holy Father, Pope Francis.



We continue our journey around the world in prayer with Europe. As we pray a decade of the Rosary, let us focus our prayers for children and families on this continent, and for Pope Francis.

DECEMBER - THU

17



Make Christmas cookies

Gather up your family members and make some fun and yummy Christmas cookies! Pray in gratitude for missionaries who provide children and families in the Missions with food to eat.



DECEMBER - FRI

18



Movie night!

Make popcorn and watch a Christmas movie with your family.



DECEMBER - SAT

19






Birth of Jesus



Read [St. Luke's Gospel about the birth of Jesus](#). Offer a prayer for "peace on earth."

DECEMBER - SUN

20



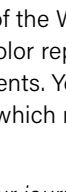
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Light the fourth candle in your Advent wreath – the final purple candle. Offer this prayer from [The Catechist Advent Prayer Service](#).

"We light this fourth candle remembering the angels and their message of peace. Lord, give us Your peace that triumphs over the worries and difficulties of this world. Help us to seek that peace this Advent. O Come, O come, Emmanuel."

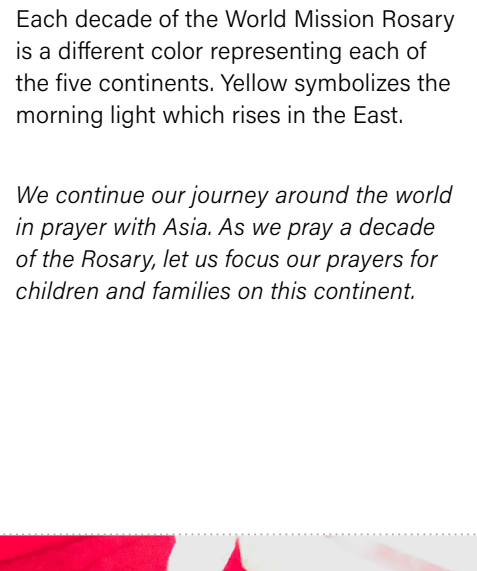
DECEMBER - MON

21



Pray the World Mission Rosary for Asia



Each decade of the World Mission Rosary is a different color representing each of the five continents. Yellow symbolizes the morning light which rises in the East.



We continue our journey around the world in prayer with Asia. As we pray a decade of the Rosary, let us focus our prayers for children and families on this continent.

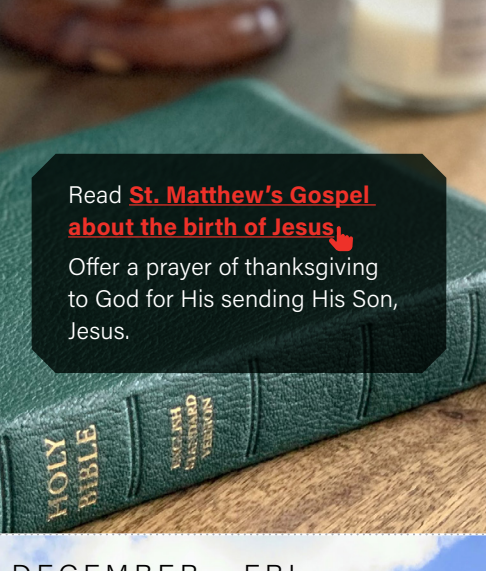
DECEMBER - TUE

22



Birth of Jesus

Read [St. Matthew's Gospel about the birth of Jesus](#). Offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His sending His Son, Jesus.



DECEMBER - WED

23



Reflect

"Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord." Psalm 89

As Christmas comes, reflect on the "good gifts" that God has given you – and gives you every day.



DECEMBER - THU

24



Christmas Eve

On this Holy Night [read about the poinsettia plant](#). Offer a prayer of hope for all children in the Missions – and [support missionaries who help them](#).



DECEMBER - FRI

25



Nativity of Our Lord

"A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth."



DECEMBER - SAT

26




Write a thank you to those who gave you gifts – especially your parents!

Say a prayer for God's blessing on all who are generous of heart.




DECEMBER - SUN

27



St. John the Apostle

[Learn more](#) about the life of this follower of Jesus.



DECEMBER - MON

28



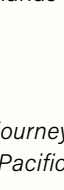
Feast of the Holy Innocents

Offer a prayer for missionaries who protect children and [offer them support for their work](#).



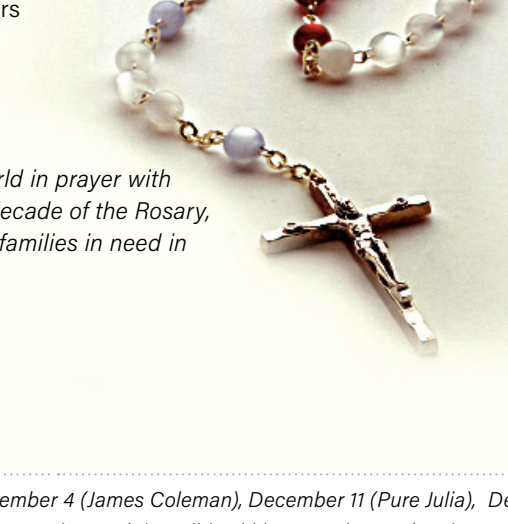
DECEMBER - TUE

29



Pray the World Mission Rosary for Oceania

Each decade of the World Mission Rosary is a different color representing each of the five continents. Blue recalls the waters surrounding the Islands of the Pacific (Oceania).



We conclude our journey around the world in prayer with the Islands of the Pacific. As we pray a decade of the Rosary, let us focus our prayers for children and families in need in this part of our world.

DECEMBER - WED

30




Make a New Year's resolution

What will you do in the New Year to help you become closer to Jesus?



DECEMBER - THU

31



A Prayer for a New Year

Dear Lord, God, thank You for bestowing upon our family a new, fresh year. We praise and glorify You for Your goodness and grace, and we would like to lift this year up to You. May You be the center of this family in this and every year.

