

# JANUARY PARISH MAILING

## Migration



Pope Francis Center  
for Justice and Charity

### Catholic Social Teaching

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”*

– Heb 13:2

### Homily Hints

Each of our families has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we

remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

In our contemporary culture, we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others, if we even

notice them at all. Can we take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious or fearful of them?

Welcoming the migrant and migration more broadly has a central place in the development of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Not only did Abraham show such hospitality, but he himself was once a migrant. The Letter to the Hebrews highlights the story of Abraham who, by faith, “obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country” (Heb 11).

Our very faith has its roots by the decision made by one man, Abraham--a migrant--who decided to follow God’s command to travel to a foreign land.

### Prayer Intentions

For all Catholics, that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect migrants and to advocate on their behalf—

*we pray to the Lord.*

For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may grow in their awareness of the issue of migration and become a voice in the public square calling for greater protections for these populations—

*we pray to the Lord.*

For migrants, refugees, and all other strangers in our midst, that they may find strength in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love—

*we pray to the Lord.*

For refugees in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere who are experiencing great suffering, that God might bring them to a place of peace and safety—

*we pray to the Lord.*





### **Work of Mercy**

[\*Welcome the Stranger »\*](#)

I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35)

### **Action**

[Accompany](#) Parishes, learn from [St. Andrew Catholic Church](#) how to accompany your community members, parishioners and neighbors affected by immigration actions.

[Advocate](#) Engagement with lawmakers is a vital part of effective advocacy. Make your voice heard and subscribe to the action alerts of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' [Justice for Immigrants program »](#)

[Educate](#) Caritas Migration Campaign - [Share the Journey »](#)

On September 27th, Pope Francis launched a two-year campaign aimed at raising awareness of Church teaching on migration and as a visible demonstration of the Catholic community's support for our brothers and sisters who have fled their homes in search of a decent and safe life for their families. Familiarize yourself with these resources and help make this campaign a success.

[Donate](#) With your generous support, Catholic Charities is able to partner with individuals and families seeking

assistance each year, promoting self-sufficiency, helping people regain their dignity, and putting them on a path to success. Your gift is an investment in their future and in our shared communities. Give to Catholic Charities' [Refugee Resettlement Program »](#)

### **Prayer**

Good and gracious God,

We pray for all people who are migrating, particularly those who are forced from their homes or separated from their families because of threats of violence and persecution. We ask that you protect and keep them safe. Although we come from different countries, and have our origins in different cultures, we were all created by you, and are made in your image, and therefore we all share an inalienable dignity that is deserving of respect.

Lord, we ask that you give us the strength to defend those who are marginalized, to give aid to those in need, to come to the defense of those who are poor or vulnerable,

and to welcome those who are on the move into our homes and into our hearts. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.



**January 7-14, 2018 is the National Migration Week**