



Give HOPE to Haiti Children this ADVENT

For the last decade, Haiti has been in desperate need of HOPE for its people. A severe earthquake devastated the country in 2010. This left 200,000 people dead and millions homeless. Another path of disaster was wrought in 2016, when Hurricane Matthew hit.

Father Louis provides HOPE for those in the small village of Anse-à-Veau, Haiti.

Father and his Missionaries at his parish offer lunch to about 40 children daily. This fills their often empty stomachs and, in most cases, provides their only meal of the day.

Father's volunteer Missionaries help as many in their community as they can, following Jesus' teachings to "do to others as you would have them do to you." They not only feed the hungry, but provide clean drinking water for the community, assist students with school tuition, care for handicapped priests and bring aid to those who they can with medical needs.



Your help and prayers will give HOPE to HAITI children and families of Anse-à-Veau and help Father Louis to provide for the needs of the community and follow Jesus' teaching.

In this months resource, see how you can give HOPE, PEACE and JOY to the children in the Missions during the ADVENT Season!

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

ADVENT—EPIPHANY 2020 • MONTHLY MISSION RESOURCE

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Mission Resources for the Season of Advent through the Feast of the Epiphany

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:



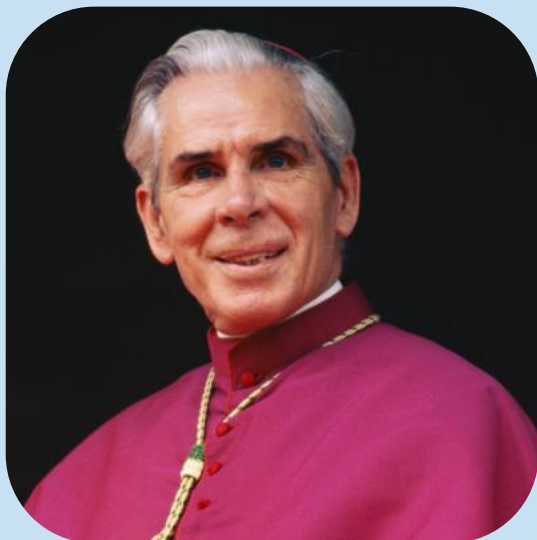
- † Advent Mission Calendar [Page 3]
- † Mission focused prayers for each week of Advent [Page 4]
- † Prayer Service for the Feast of the Epiphany [Page 5]
- † Use this coloring Activity in the weeks leading up to Christmas, to inspire gratitude for the gifts we have and receive, and to remind students to pray for children in the Missions who have less than we do.
- † This Month's Mission: **Saint is St. John Neumann**, a Missionary and fourth Bishop of Philadelphia! [Page 7]
- † Distribute the **"Mission Focus: Peace and Joy" page**. Pray with your students for children in the Mission lands who seek, Hope, Peace and Joy. [Page 8]
- † Add the Mission Photo Page to your Prayer Corner; remember to update this corner each month. [Page 9]
- † Incorporate the Mission Photo Pages for **Mission Bulletin Boards** at your School or PREP program

FOR SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS:

- † Include the Holy Father's December Prayer Intention: *That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.*
- † Baptism of Our Lord Activity, click [HERE](#).

Archbishop Sheen to be beatified December, 21st!

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who developed the **World Mission Rosary**, was the National Director of the **Pontifical Mission Societies** from 1950 – 1966. Throughout his life, Fulton Sheen constantly expressed his love and concern for the Missions.



"The poor Missions of the world need the comfortable to supply roofs for their churches, medicine for their hospitals and clothes for their backs, but the comfortable need the poor in order that they may have the blessing of God in their hearts, the charity of Christ in their souls, and the intercession of the poor who are the friends of God." — Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

In July, Pope Francis had approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, leading the way to his beatification.

The approved miracle was for the healing of James Fulton Engstrom of Washington, Illinois, who was considered stillborn when he was delivered during a planned home birth on September 16, 2010. His parents, Bonnie and Travis Engstrom, immediately invoked the prayers of Archbishop Sheen and encouraged others to seek his intercession after the baby was taken to Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria for emergency treatment.

Just as doctors were preparing to declare that he was dead, James Fulton's tiny heart started to beat at a normal rate for a healthy newborn. He had been without a pulse for 61 minutes. **Yes—James' parents gave him Fulton as his middle name—how appropriate!**

Despite dire prognoses for his future, including that he would probably be blind and never walk, talk or be able to feed himself, James has thrived. Now a healthy 8-year-old, he likes chicken nuggets, "Star Wars" and riding his bicycle.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
**MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD
ASSOCIATION**



**2019 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR
for Missionary Children and Families**
Visit www.phillymissions.org for more Advent prayers & activities

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 First Sunday of Advent Create a family Advent wreath. Light the first candle on your wreath. Pray as a family each week.	2 Spend time as a family determining one way each week you can save some money, perhaps by giving something up, to make a donation to the Missions through MCA.	3 St. Francis Xavier, Patron of the Missions, Feast Day, brought the word of God to Africa and Asia. Pray for the children and Missionaries of these Mission lands today.	4 Learn to pray the World Mission Rosary at www.phillymissions.org Pray a decade for families in Asia.	5 Do a household chore today, without being asked.	6 St. Nicholas Follow the example of Saint Nicholas on his Feast Day. Surprise someone with an act of kindness today.	7 Perform some act of service for your parish. Ask the Rectory for suggestions!
8 Second Sunday of Advent Go to Mass as a family. Light two candles on your Advent wreath. Read today's Gospel.	9 To honor the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. (December 8th) pray the rosary. Mary was born free of sin. Say 3 Hail Mary's for unborn babies.	10 Make a Christmas card for a teacher. Pray for him or her and for catechists who teach about Jesus in the Mission lands.	11 There are many children who do not have friends. For each friend you see at school today, give a MCA donation for Advent. Thank God for your friends.	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. What is the story of Mary who appeared to Juan Diego?	13 Memorial of St. John of the Cross, who grew up in an orphanage. Give up a treat today to help the children in one of the 9,552 orphanages run by the Church in the Missions, over half in Africa	14 Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for families in Africa. Color the green beads on your World Mission Rosary sheet.
15 Third Sunday of Advent Go to Mass! Light the first two candles and the pink candle on your Advent wreath and pray together for families in need.	16 Learn about the Mexican tradition of <i>Las Posadas</i> , reenacting the journey Joseph and Mary took to find shelter before the birth of Jesus.	17 Forgive someone who has hurt you. Plan time for your family to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas. Pray for peace in places in the Missions where there is conflict.	18 Make an MCA donation for every classroom you enter today. Pray for children who are not able to go to school because they have to work.	19 At each meal today, think about those who are hungry and in need of food and shelter, in your area and half a world away. Skip dessert or snack and make a donation to MCA.	20 Spend time with a loved one instead of watching TV or playing video games.	21 Pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for families living in Oceania. Color the blue beads on your World Mission Rosary.
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent Read about Jesus' birth Matthew 1:18-25	23 Make a point to hug everyone in your family today. Pray for a child in the Missions who may not feel loved. Pray that a Missionary makes him or her feel loved!	24 Pick one way you can simplify your lifestyle, to make more room for God.	24 Happy Birthday Jesus! Celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child by joyfully thanking God for the great gift He has given you, the gift of His Son.	Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!		



Mission Prayers for each week of **ADVENT**



Advent Pageant in Manila, Philippines

Week 1: Light the first purple candle. **The first PURPLE candle represents HOPE.**

Father in Heaven, we need the warmth of your love in our hearts and the light of your Word in our minds. Help us to grow in our faith so that we will be prepared and filled with hope when Jesus comes. In our own little way, help us to bring hope to children who are afraid, sad or alone. We ask you to bring them hope for tomorrow. Through us, shine your light of Hope upon them. Amen.

Week 3: Light the pink candle. **The PINK candle represents JOY.**

Father in Heaven, we know that you love all of your people. Your love brings the gift of joy to our hearts. We think of all the unhappy children in the world today. We ask you to bring a little joy to their hearts this Christmas and we hope that someone can provide for all their needs. Thank you for the joy we feel as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.

Week 2: Light the second purple candle. **This PURPLE candle represents PEACE.**

Father in Heaven, very soon the birth of your Son, Jesus will light up the world. May his quiet coming bring us true inner peace. Dear God, help us to bring peace to those around us. Look after children who live with conflict at home, at school and in their country. Help us to throw your blanket of peace around their shoulders and comfort them with our friendship. Amen.

Week 4: Light the third purple candle. **The third PURPLE candle represents LOVE.**

Father in Heaven, bless our families and bring us the spirit of understanding and love. May our homes be places of peace and laughter and may your love shine from our eyes. In everything we do and say, help us to show love to others. Today we ask your blessing on our circle of love and prayer. Keep us forever safe in the warmth of your love. Amen.

**“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem, may we let ourselves
be drawn by the light of God made man.” - Pope Francis**



Epiphany Prayer Service

When writer Robert Louis Stevenson was a little boy, he lived in a house on a hillside in Scotland. Every evening, he would watch the lamplighter walk through the streets in the valley below, lighting each of the village street lights. *“Look, Mother,”* he would say. *“Here comes the man who punches holes in the darkness.”*

Epiphany celebrates the time when God punched a hole in the darkness. The story tells us that Magi in the East **saw a sign of God – a bright star** – and left everything to follow the star. The Gospel tells us that this star *“filled their hearts with delight”* and that they delivered their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the Newborn King.

Leader:

Read: Matthew 2:11

As we celebrate the Epiphany, we are reminded that **We are Missionaries** through our prayers, sacrifices, acts of kindness and through our financial gifts to the **Missionary Childhood Association**. We help to bring the light of Christ through our efforts to be *“children helping children”* in the Church around the world. Like the Magi, we offer special gifts to our Savior. Song: We Three Kings *[TO DO: Representatives come forward from the back of the church and process to the manager scene on the altar to present the offerings. Use decorative containers to represent each of the three gifts of the Magi.]*

READER 1:

Frankincense recalls how Jesus lived His life as **One with the Father**, always seeking to do God’s will. Our prayers rise like sweet-smelling incense before God. The thankfulness of our hearts and the holiness of our lives make us like frankincense to God and to the world.

[TO DO: Bring up all the prayer offerings we made during Advent for the Missions.]

READER 2:

Gold is a precious metal, considered worthy of a king. It was used to barter and make purchases. As we prepared for Jesus’ birth, we put aside money from little jobs we had performed or from sacrifices made by not eating a piece of candy. *[TO DO: Bring up our MCA mission money to make a difference in the lives of children.]*

READER 3:

Myrrh is part of the compound in anointing oil. It has been used as medicine, a preservative and perfume. Frequently it is associated with death. In preparation for Christmas we were encouraged to give of ourselves, to volunteer, and to offer service hours expecting nothing in return. We had to die to self to help others. Let us bring these sacrifices to the Infant King.

[TO DO: Here particular students can be highlighted to say a few words about their personal efforts. For example: I watched my baby brother without asking my mom for money; I went to Mass every Tuesday during Advent; I gave my candy money to the Missions, etc. Then, announce the total money collected for the Missions during Advent.]

Leader: Thank you girls and boys for this **Epiphany**, making your love visible with the Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh of your life. Continue **to be Missionaries** and let your light shine everywhere. Continue to punch holes in the dark-ness of our world, even to the ends of the earth, letting the Light of our Lord shine through our words and actions. **Now let us join together as one family in faith and pray Our Father...**

Closing Song: Joy to the World

Christmas Blessings



Color this picture of presents with Mission Colors—**GREEN** for Africa, **YELLOW** for Asia, **RED** for the Americas and **BLUE** for Oceania & the Pacific Islands! Notice that within these gifts, are hidden words. These are gifts that we have, and sometimes take for granted. This Christmas, try to be appreciative of not just the presents we receive, but the many blessings that we have, and pray for the children in the Mission lands that may not have these things.

Mission Saint Spotlight

Saint John Neumann

John Neumann, born on March 28, 1811 in Prachatice in Bohemia [now the Czech Republic], knew from an early age that he wanted to help bring souls to Christ. After completing his Theology studies in the Seminary of Budweis and zealous for the Missionary life, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to Europeans who had immigrated to America. Neumann felt that were sorely deprived of spiritual support.

Neumann was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York in June 1836, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls.



Wanting to live in a Religious community that corresponded more to his Missionary vocation, in January 1842, he entered the Redemptorists order. A tireless Missionary, Neumann busied himself, in particular, with the German immigrants, first in Baltimore, then in Pittsburgh.

Having filled the role of the Redemptorists Vice-Provincial Superior of the from 1846-49, he became the parish priest in Baltimore. With this and his past experiences, he was named the Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852.

Neumann had a strong effect on the religious life of the US by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. He founded a new religious institute—the Third Order of Saint Francis of Glen Riddle. The School Sisters of Notre Dame likewise regard Neumann as their secondary founder, their “Father in America.” In just seven years, he built 89 churches, as well as several hospitals and orphanages. As a Bishop, Neumann was untiring and visited parishes in his vast Diocese often.

On January 5, 1860, at the age of 48, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a Philadelphia street. Neumann was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on the occasion of Neumann’s canonization, Pope Paul VI summarized the activity of the new Saint: “He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all immigrants.”

Saint John Neumann is invoked as a Patron of Sick Children and of Immigrants.



Feast Day: January 5th

Patron of: Catholic Education

Birth: March 28, 1811

Death: January 5, 1860

Beatified: October 13, 1963

Canonized: June 19, 1977

“As Christ has His work, we too have ours; as He rejoiced to do his work, we must rejoice in ours also.” - Saint John Neumann

Give PEACE to children like Soriya in Cambodia this ADVENT

In Cambodia, many families move to the city from the countryside to look for jobs. Soriya, her little sister, Chanlina and her family are one such family. A move to the city of Phnom Penh, held promise.



Moving created problems for seven-year old Soriya. It is difficult to register in Cambodian schools, and even with both her parents working, their \$65 a month – **only about \$2 day** month – can not cover school fees of \$35. Soriya & Chanlina are forced to stay at home all day, *alone & unsupervised*.

Thankfully, the Lindalva Center, run by Missionary Sisters, brought PEACE of mind for Soriya's family! The Sisters encourage the families to send the children daily to the Center — a safe, fun and friendly place.

The children will learn Khmer, the native language, English and Math. Most of all, the Sisters care and share the gift of hope by teaching the “Good News” of Jesus

Your help and prayers will give PEACE to the children and families of Phnom Penh and help keep Lindalva Center open and to pay for school books, food and teachers.



Give JOY to the children of Lodwar, Kenya this ADVENT.



Turkana, in the Diocese of Lodwar in Kenya, is one of the driest regions in the world.

In December, the children go “sledging” – sledding on sand using an old piece of plastic. *It's almost as good as on snow!*

Children also play simple games like sticks-n-stones or hide-n-seek.

Play time comes only after chores and hard work . . .

Fetching water is a daily chore for children throughout Kenya. In Turkana, the search for water often involves digging holes in a dried-up riverbed. Reaching water may require digging 16 feet into the dry ground and the water is not often clean, which brings about sickness.

Your help and prayers will give JOY to the children and families of Lodwar and help construct a purified water station.



The Celebration of Las Posadas in Mission Lands



Children leading the procession during a Las Posadas celebration at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in Tyler, Texas. Traditions that originated in Mission lands are celebrated here, too!

Las Posadas is Spanish for *lodging, or accommodation*, which refers to the “*Inn*” from the story of the Nativity of Jesus. It uses the plural form as the celebration lasts for nine days [*also called a Novena*] during the Christmas season. The Novena represents the nine-month pregnancy of Mary, the mother of Christ Jesus. For *Las Posadas*, two people dress up as Mary and Joseph. Houses are designated to be an “*Inn*.” The head of the procession will have a candle inside a paper lampshade. At each house, the resident answers and sings a song. Mary and Joseph are *finally recognized* and allowed *IN*. Once the “*innkeepers*” let them in, the group of guests come into the home and kneel around the Nativity scene to pray [*typically, the Rosary*]. Latin American countries continue to celebrate this holiday to this day, with very few changes to the tradition. In some places, the final location may be a church instead of a home. The people asking for posada travel to ONE house each night for each of the NINE nights.

