

# Justice Corner

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## January 4, 2015

### Feast of the Epiphany

Today's Scriptures remind us that Jesus came to be a Light for ALL God's people, especially those who are poor, rejected, or mistreated. Imagine the kings' surprise when they found lowly shepherds adoring Jesus! In the Kingdom of God, the poor have a special place but there are many, like King Herod, who feel afraid. These fears manifest themselves in the form of racism, discrimination, economic injustice, and violence. Jesus calls us to share His Light with others.

January is Poverty Awareness Month, a chance for us to shine the Light of Christ on injustices that impoverish God's people and cause human suffering.

You may like to visit [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org) to learn about the structural causes of poverty in the United States and how you can work alongside others to end it.

You can bring light to your brothers and sisters by making a gift to Catholic Charities at [www.ccadm.org](http://www.ccadm.org)

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## January 11, 2015

### The Baptism of Our Lord

Today's Scriptures reveal the special relationship of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

While John was baptizing Jesus, God said, *“This is my beloved **Son** on whom my favor rests”* and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove. Then Jesus, *“Went about doing good and healing all those oppressed... for God was with him.”*

Like Jesus, our baptism empowers us to help others. Baptized into the family of God we are called to become our “brother's keeper”.

- How do you care for your family, neighbors, and those who suffer?
- Do you feel responsible for helping people in need?
- Do you advocate for people that have no voice?

January is Poverty Awareness Month. You can learn what our Church is doing to help people in poverty by visiting [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org) or [www.facebook.com/povertyusa](http://www.facebook.com/povertyusa) and how you can participate in these activities.

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## January 18, 2015

### Here I Am Lord

God kept calling Samuel until he heard Him. He calls us too. Do you hear him?

The events of daily living and the people we encounter can help us discern God's call. Often God's voice is present in situations that make us uncomfortable, or people we find difficult to relate with. They can help us to broaden our perspective and achieve spiritual growth.

God calls us to practice our faith through the sacraments but it doesn't end there. We are called to be His Voice in the world. He uses our hands, feet and voices to fight injustice and create a just and peaceful world. So the next time you hear God calling you out of your comfort zone, don't be afraid. Say, "Here I am Lord. Send me!"

January is Poverty Awareness Month. This week, challenge yourself to take action on behalf of people in poverty. Learn how you can get involved by visiting [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

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## January 25, 2015

### Repentance & Reform

God loved the people of Nineveh so much that He sent Jonah to call them to repentance. They heeded Jonah's warning, repented, and God withheld his punishment.

Our contemporary world looks a lot like Nineveh:

- More than half the world's population lives in desperate poverty.
- Wars and violence force millions to live as refugees.
- Unjust economic systems impoverish billions while a few prosper.

We need prophets to lead us to repentance. Greed and insecurity threaten our existence!

The beginning of a new year brings hope. Reform and renewal are possible. Like Jonah and John the Baptist, we are called to live prophetic lives, speak up for people who are oppressed, and risk our personal security for the greater good of our society.

Learn more at [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

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