

**Middle School**

**December 10, 2017**

## **Peace on Earth?**

With only a few weeks left in 2017, this year has already earned a dreadful honor—the deadliest year for mass killings in more than a decade.

Last month's shooting at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, added twenty-six more victims to the year's total.

The runner-up for most shootings in a year was just last year, when 188 people were killed in brutal attacks.

Since 2006, a total of 365 mass killings have claimed the lives of nearly two thousand people.

Many Americans worry about this steady increase of violence in our country.

Two of the five deadliest mass killings in history—Sutherland Springs and Las Vegas—have taken place in the past three months.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Do you think this increase in mass shootings will continue into 2018? Why or why not?
- This week, we light the peace candle on the Advent wreath. What peace could you offer to those who are afraid of the rise in violence in our country?
- Why do we celebrate peace during Advent? In your own words, what peace comes from knowing that God sent His Son to earth?