

Sunday, Sep 26, 2021

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Well done, good and faithful servants

Mother's and Father's Days aren't occasions for parents to toot their own horns about how fabulously they fulfilled the tasks of child-rearing. These dates are for their children to recall and celebrate the special people who made their lives possible. Similarly, today's Priesthood Sunday isn't meant for priests to beat the drum about their vocation. It's an opportunity for the rest of us, who benefit from their fidelity, to thank the men who were present to the first moments of our life in faith and will be there at the last—plus countless moments in between.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 (137). *"Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets!"*

Monday, Sep 27, 2021

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST

God works with us as we are

Saint Vincent de Paul is known for founding two religious orders, reforming the church, and serving the poor to such an extent that he is the patron of all works of charity. Many schools and parishes bear his name. But in his lifetime, he was also known for being irritable and quick-tempered—which his friends confirmed and he himself admitted. He said it was only God's grace that made him compassionate, humble, and generous. He's a perfect example that we don't have to be perfect to do saintly work—if we let God soften our hard-heartedness, what great things we might do.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50 (455). *"For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest."*

Tuesday, Sep 28, 2021

MEMORIAL OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR

A faith that runs in the family

Good King Wenceslaus is, of course, best known for his care of the poor and the concern he showed his servant, as immortalized in the famous Christmas carol. Indeed, it was young Wenceslaus' habit to sneak out in the middle of the night and—with his servant assisting—roam the countryside looking for poor or imprisoned people he could anonymously help with his almsgiving. But Wenceslaus and his grandmother, Saint Ludmila, could also be patron saints for grandchildren who are raised in the Catholic Christian faith primarily by their grandparents. Pray for all modern grandparents who assume this role.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). *"Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord."*

Wednesday, Sep 29, 2021

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

God's special care for migrants

Every minute of the day 20 people in the world leave everything behind to escape war, persecution, or terror. The archangels of the Bible represent God's special care for these migrants. Michael was the guardian of Israel during their captivity in the foreign land of Babylon. Gabriel is the patron saint of diplomats and ambassadors living in foreign countries. Raphael is featured in the Book of Tobit accompanying the story's hero, Tobias, on his journey to a foreign land to find a wife. The church recognized

World Day of Migrants and Refugees last Sunday. Pray that the archangels guide and protect migrants and refugees making perilous journeys everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51 (647). *"You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

Thursday, Sep 30, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Translating the faith for the ages

Where would the church be without the word? If you have ever read a verse from the Bible, thank Saint Jerome (347-419). His translation of the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin set the standard until the mid-20th century, paving the way for scholarship that affects our contemporary translations of scripture. His pivotal writing and translating earned him the rare title of "doctor of the church." Give a nod to Saint Jerome by reading a favorite scripture passage today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458). *"Say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"*

Friday, Oct 01, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Graceful glances

Glances are totally underrated. They seem trivial, hurried and fleeting, even stolen! They are the smallest of gestures, barely registering a flick of the eye. It is surprising then that a glance can also be a prayer. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux wrote, "For me, prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally, it is something." Our prayerful "glances" are significant. They register with God. A glance can communicate everything to God, especially when life leaves us wordless. Pause now for a moment and glance at God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). *"Justice is with the Lord, our God."*

Saturday, Oct 02, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

All night and all day

Years back, in perhaps what were more innocent times (or at least appear so to us now), Catholic schoolchildren were encouraged to leave a little space on their chairs for their guardian angels. This charming bit of nostalgia reveals a deeper article of faith. From biblical times to the present, the testimony on angels guiding us has been consistent. Saint Augustine said, "Go where we will, our angels are always with us," while Saint Bernard encouraged Christians to "Make the holy angels your friends . . . we have nothing to fear under the protection of these guardians." Perhaps the larger truth is that although suffering and even tragedy may come our way, if we leave our hearts open, we will not be left alone. God will be at our side. Scoot over a bit!

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29 (460); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). *"Their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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