

Sunday, Nov 10, 2019

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In search of heavenly bodies

Church father Tertullian insisted: “The flesh is the hinge of salvation.” Cyril of Jerusalem concurred: “Do not believe anyone who maintains that our bodies have nothing to do with God.” These thoughts countered religious schools disdaining the body and viewing only the purely spiritual soul as worthy of the afterlife. Christian thinkers held the Resurrection of Jesus as proof positive that God values the entire human person. So we profess in our Creed each Sunday: “I believe in the resurrection of the body.” Our flesh and blood takes its dignity from the God who chose to inhabit it personally.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5; Luke 20:27-38 (156). “*May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.*”

Monday, Nov 11, 2019

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP

Be of service

On Veterans Day we honor all people who have served in the United States Armed Forces. While we honor that past service, also remember that veterans have a life after the military and sometimes need help as civilians—whether it be a job or a meal or a friend. Saint Martin of Tours was a fourth-century soldier who, after encountering a beggar, said to his commander, “I have served you as a soldier; now let me serve Christ.” Pray to Martin for today’s veterans and serve those who’ve served us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 1:1-7; Luke 17:1-6 (491). “*If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.*”

Tuesday, Nov 12, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOSAPHAT, BISHOP, MARTYR

Father, may they all be one

Josaphat is commonly known as the patron saint for Christian unity, his martyrdom in 1623 coming as the result of his efforts to bring a segment of the Eastern Orthodox Christian faith back into full communion with the Catholic Church following the Great Schism of 1054. He succeeded. And today, 23 different Eastern Catholic Churches—each keeping their unique Eastern liturgies, theologies, and customs—are in full communion with the Roman Church. What’s not as well known: Josaphat had a favorite devotional practice, the penitential *poklon* (Old Slavic for “deep bow”) while saying the Jesus Prayer. Honor him—and all humble, peacemaking efforts for unity—by praying the Jesus Prayer today: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:23—3:9; Luke 17:7-10 (492). “*Grace and mercy are with his holy ones.*”

Wednesday, Nov 13, 2019

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

Be persistent in your faithful service

Poor health kept Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) from joining a local Italian convent. Determined, prayerful, and organized, she started her own religious community. Soon known as Mother Cabrini, she established convents and then opened schools, hospitals, and homes to care for poor children. Pope Leo XIII asked Frances to bring her considerable skills to the United States where more than 50,000 Italian immigrants lived in

poverty. When she arrived, the local archbishop told her to go back to Italy! But Frances persisted, bringing the love of God to the immigrant poor. Canonized as the first naturalized American citizen in 1946, she is the patron saint of immigrants. Say a prayer this day for the immigrants in your community.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19 (493). “*Stand up and go your way; your faith has been your salvation.*”

Thursday, Nov 14, 2019

In every end, a new beginning

This time of year, we hear a lot about the end of the world in the readings. That might seem odd as we approach Advent and prepare for the birth of Christ. A newborn, after all, is the ultimate new beginning—especially when one is born to bring salvation. But then again, we’re concluding the church year soon, so reflecting on endings is fitting. Even nature in northern climes is going dormant to ready itself for rebirth in the spring. Get your spirit in sync with the church season and pray that the light continue to overcome the darkness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 7:22b—8:1; Luke 17:20-25 (494). “*For behold, the kingdom of God is among you.*”

Friday, Nov 15, 2019

MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Charitable thinking

Saint Albert had broad interests that advanced many areas of study in medieval Europe, including natural sciences, logic, music, mathematics, astronomy, and economics. His incorporation of Greek and Arabic philosophy in his studies paved the way for the influential work of future Catholic theologians, including his renowned student Saint Thomas Aquinas. But Albert’s expansive intellectual pursuits, while rightly labeled “great” by history, all led him back to one simple truth: “If we possess charity, we possess God, for ‘God is Charity.’” Recognize God in the charitable giving—material or spiritual, in word or deed—that you offer and receive today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495). “*All . . . were by nature foolish who were in ignorance of God . . . who from studying the works did not discern the artisan.*”

Saturday, Nov 16, 2019

MEMORIAL OF MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Don't let comfort insulate you from the needy

Saint Margaret of Scotland may have been queen—with all the perks of that lofty position—but her early life wasn’t easy. Her father died when she was young and her family had to flee trouble. She ended up in Scotland because she was shipwrecked there. Maybe that’s why she was so kind and generous after marrying the king, always helping the poor and building churches, because she had known hard times, with no one but God to lean on. Let your own trials and tribulations make you more empathetic with others.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8 (496). “*Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?*”

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



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