

Sunday, Jun 21, 2020

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The true measure of love

How do we know we're loved? It's more than a matter of hearing the words or seeing them written in a card. Love has something to do with fidelity: showing up, being there, not leaving when the stampede is moving in the direction of the door. Love makes sacrifices, shares times of want along with seasons of plenty. Love generously supports and honestly challenges. Love lets go when the time is right. On this Father's Day, celebrate those who have embraced the vocation to show a father's love and helped you recognize your true worth.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33 (94). *"So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."*

Monday, Jun 22, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PAULINUS OF NOLA, BISHOP

Simplicity is next to Godliness

Paulinus of Nola had it all—a successful career and wealth that enabled him to retire early—and then he didn't. After his only child died as a baby, he and his wife started shedding their life of leisure that sorrow must have rendered insensible. Today, as the world changes dramatically, and our lives with it, we can relate. Paulinus eventually became a monk and celebrated Christian poet. After his wife died, he was named bishop and ended up being friends with many future saints, including Augustine, Jerome, Ambrose, and Gregory the Great. With God's help, you too can turn your own tragedies into triumph in Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Matthew 7:1-5 (371). *"The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you."*

Tuesday, Jun 23, 2020

Essential work calls

Today, designated International Widows' Day by the United Nations, is a good day to remember all families that have lost a loved one due to coronavirus—especially families that are most vulnerable, with children or a limited livelihood. As Pope Benedict XVI affirmed in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, "love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind is as essential" to the church "as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the gospel." How can you be Christ's hands and feet today, to help provide sustenance to hurting families and lessen their suffering?

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Matthew 7:6, 12-14 (372). *"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you."*

Wednesday, Jun 24, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Give it away

John the Baptist is considered the opening act for Jesus, the forerunner and the one who prepared people to receive the message of Jesus. A better spokesperson could not be found. John's noble counsel that we share our extra coat and food with those who need them holds true today, ever more in these

difficult times when we have learned the imperative need to care for one another. Head to the closet—what can you give away?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80 (587). *"What, then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."*

Thursday, Jun 25, 2020

Come quick, compassion

The COVID-19 pandemic leaves deep scars around the world. The words of today's psalm are vividly true: "May your compassion quickly come to us, for we are brought very low." The church teaches that God's compassion is always at hand. Suffering can be excruciating, but God's presence endures. Be a compassionate presence to someone who is hurting. The heart you heal may end up being your own.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 24:8-17; Matthew 7:21-29 (374). *"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."*

Friday, Jun 26, 2020

Make us clean

Today is International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. This year's theme of "Health for Justice. Justice for Health" captures the complexity of the problem, including the need for widespread accountability and equal access to treatment. As a society, we recognize "international days" as a way to raise awareness about global problems and celebrate achievements. The bad news: Worldwide, 35 million people now suffer from drug disorders; the good news: Cooperation among nations is becoming more coordinated and sustained. In April 2020, during a month the church dedicated to the "drama of addiction," Pope Francis prayed that "those suffering from addiction may be properly helped and accompanied." It is a prayer worth repeating.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 25:1-12; Matthew 8:1-4 (375). *"Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."*

Saturday, Jun 27, 2020

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Mellow sainthood

Fifth-century Saint Cyril of Alexandria began his career as archbishop with intolerant impulses, expelling Jews from the city. But with time he softened his views, and so is remembered instead for opposing the idea that Jesus' humanity was a mere disguise. How compassionate Jesus is toward the centurion in today's gospel, how tenderly he touches the hand of Peter's mother-in-law. Surely he shows the best of being human, nothing is camouflage. In the process of maturing, how have your own hard edges been softened and made compassionate?

TODAY'S READINGS: Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Matthew 8:5-17 (376). *"He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."*

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



©2020 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at [TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe](https://www.TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe).**