

Sunday, Sep 27, 2020

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Still time to change your mind

One of the lovely things about having a mind is that you can change it. A working brain takes in new information, reflects on it, and makes connections. Sometimes the result is a revised perspective on ideas you thought were chiseled in stone. People of faith also pray for wisdom and inspiration, which can be troubling prayers to have answered if you're banking on the status quo. Jesus told his followers that folks they had counted out of the circle of grace were being counted in by God. A thoughtful faith will be able to absorb the divine curveballs.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32 (136). "'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not.'"

Monday, Sep 28, 2020

MEMORIAL OF LAWRENCE RUIZ AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Make an offering of your life

Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, patron saint of the Philippines and the first canonized Filipino martyr, died in 1637 and was elevated to sainthood in 1987. A Dominican-educated altar boy who grew up to become a clerk, marry, and have children, he was falsely accused of murder and fled on a ship to Japan in the company of missionaries. Once there, he was arrested and tortured for being a Christian, but he refused to recant his faith and was executed, saying, "Had I a thousand lives, all these to Him shall I offer." What sacrifices are you willing to make for your faith?

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50 (455). "Whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Tuesday, Sep 29, 2020

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Pray for heavenly healing

Some Christians call today "Michaelmass," for Michael the archangel. And indeed, among the three archangels the Catholic Church honors today, the mighty Michael—depicted in art battling Satan—is probably best known. Almost as well known is Gabriel, who announces to Mary that she will conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and bear the Messiah. Raphael is least familiar. But, as the angel most known for healing—his name meaning "God's medicine"—Raphael is arguably the heavenly help we need right now. Ask for Saint Raphael's intercession today, to heal a world reeling from a pandemic.

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."

Wednesday, Sep 30, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Being a saint doesn't make you perfect

Saint Jerome (345-420) is a highly regarded scholar of the church who translated the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin. He was also a complex human being whose crabby nature sometimes complicated his life. In other words, he was fully human. In addition to his enduring Latin translation, called the Vulgate, there are many homilies, quotes, letters, and commentaries attributed to Jerome. This quote is one to contemplate on his feast day: "It is our part to seek, His to grant what we ask; ours to make a beginning, His to bring it to

completion; ours to offer what we can, His to finish what we cannot."

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62 (457). "Let my prayer come before you, Lord. Daily I call upon you."

Thursday, Oct 01, 2020

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

Love greatly in small ways

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most accessible role models ever canonized. Her spirituality, affectionately known as the "Little Way," is a path anyone in any walk of life can follow because its central tenet is simple (though not easy to follow!): "What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love." She lived a short, quiet life as a French Carmelite nun, modeling the conviction that people can live in profound union with God simply by carrying out our daily tasks with a loving spirit. Choose one task today that you can carry out with loving kindness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 19:21-27; Luke 10:1-12 (458). "Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand."

Friday, Oct 02, 2020

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Watching over you

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is clear about the existence of angels. "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition." In Genesis 16, Hagar's angel rescues her. In Exodus 23, when God told Moses to lead the people, he said, "My angel will go before you." In Numbers 22, an angel kept the oracle Balaam from the mistake of cursing Israel. Psalm 91 says that God "commands his angels . . . to guard you wherever you go." In the Book of Tobit, young Tobias is accompanied by the Archangel Raphael. Angels are the loving care of God personified in celestial beings, God faithfully standing at our side. You can call on angelic support in your time of need.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 (459); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). "Their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Saturday, Oct 03, 2020

Divinely inspired

Job is a famous biblical character many of us can admire from a distance but few would take the opportunity to imitate up close. During a pandemic, however, all of us get to taste some of what Job experienced. Job's story invites us to examine a central question: In whom or what do I place my trust? In a time of crisis, we're invited to dig down to a deeper truth underneath the shifting conditions—the unconditional love of God for all of us, regardless of the circumstances. Try offering your own love to others unconditionally and learn something about how God operates.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24 (460). "I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you."

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



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