

Sunday, Oct 04, 2020

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Celebrate the joy of new life

In a happy collision of observances, October is dedicated to respecting life, supporting fair trade, employing the differently abled, and praying the Rosary. Today is not only Respect Life Sunday but also, in memory of Francis of Assisi, an occasion to bless the animals who share our lives. If you're seeking an integrated moral code, here's your chance to champion the spectrum of life. The Rosary's Joyful Mysteries lead the way: embrace new life, encourage mothers, support child-affirming laws, recognize the gifts of all God's children, and respect the wisdom of young people.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139). "Finally, [the landowner] sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'"

Monday, Oct 05, 2020

MEMORIAL OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

A saint for this season

As we've lately learned, it's hard to be happy during a health crisis, but Redemptorist Father Francis Xavier Seelos was called the "Cheerful Ascetic," even while serving the sick during a disease outbreak. Known for his kindness and missionary zeal, this German-born priest kept his sermons simple for everyone to understand and was sought out as a compassionate confessor. He was an itinerant preacher throughout the Eastern and Midwestern United States, before being sent to New Orleans where he died of yellow fever. Those seeking healing can submit their prayer petition to the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37 (461). "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself."

Tuesday, Oct 06, 2020

MEMORIAL OF BLESSED MARIE ROSE DUROCHER, VIRGIN

When Mary receives a Martha job

Jesus said his friend Mary was right to cease activity, to simply sit at his feet and listen. But the church may ask you to be more like Martha—to reach out to the world, as Jesus also called on his followers to do. Such was the dilemma of Marie Rose Durocher. This quiet and frail young woman preferred the quiet life but was pressed into pastoral service by her brother, a Montreal priest in the 1830s. Then her bishop asked her to start a new religious community to help educate the young. How is God asking you to move beyond your own comfort zone today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 1:13-24; Luke 10:38-42 (462). "A woman whose name was Martha welcomed him."

Wednesday, Oct 07, 2020

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Protect us from harm

The Rosary has been a favored Catholic form of prayer for centuries. Inviting us to pray five Our Fathers, 50 Hail Marys, and five Glory Be's while meditating on gospel stories from Mary's and Jesus' lives, this spiritual practice has helped generations of Catholics ask for Mary's intercession. In October 1571, Catholic soldiers prayed the Rosary to prepare for battle with Turkish soldiers in the Gulf of Corinth. When they won that battle, Pope Pius V claimed that October 7 would be known as the Feast of

Our Lady of Victory. Two years later, his successor, Gregory XIII, changed the name to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. As our world faces the challenge of the COVID-19 virus, we again ask for Mary's intercession. Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Luke 11:1-4 (463). "Jesus was praying in a certain place."

Thursday, Oct 08, 2020

Persistence pays off

Prayer is not like an ATM whereby requests are entered and dispensed. Ultimately our model is Jesus. Christ's persistence in prayer united him with God but did not erase his suffering. He sweated blood, he was crucified. When we do not receive the answer we are hoping for to our prayer request, we may suffer too, but, like Jesus, we can open ourselves to deeper union with God. Take time today to offer God your needs, trusting that God's strength and presence always suffices.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13 (464). "If you . . . give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Friday, Oct 09, 2020

God casts out evil

Although Hollywood has popularized exorcism with such movies as *The Exorcist* (1973) and more recently *The Conjuring* series, exorcism is a legitimate rite in the church. An exorcism is actually a form of prayer. It is used in situations where the faithful experience a force of evil or the "powers of darkness," which we call the devil or demons. Recognizing the place of exorcism in the prayers of the church is important because it reminds us that God has already freed us from the snare of evil. As you encounter various "demons" in your life, remember to pray: Call upon God to be with you and to separate you from all that is evil and to surround you with God's love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26 (465). "But if it is by the finger of God that [I] drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

Saturday, Oct 10, 2020

Put on your dancing shoes!

On this day, the Jewish community celebrates Simchat Torah. This joyous harvest festival marks the beginning and end of the annual Torah reading, and culminates in dancing with the sacred texts. In a similar sense of celebration, Jesus says to his disciples, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." Choose scripture as your companion, and get ready to shimmy, shake, rock and roll, and trip the light fantastic all for the greater glory of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Galatians 3:22-29; Luke 11:27-28 (466). "And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise."

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



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