

Sunday, Oct 14, 2018

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A modest proposal

Jonathan Swift set his 18th-century readers on fire when he “modestly” suggested that poverty in Ireland could be ended if the Irish would but resolve to eat their children. This grotesque recommendation was neither serious nor a joke, but something else: a wake-up call to the plight of the desperate. When Jesus offers his modest proposal of total renunciation of our property, we’re left in the same boat as Swift’s audience. Is Jesus serious or kidding? What is he saying about what’s most vital for life? Can’t we follow him—and drag all our cool stuff along?

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 7:7-11; Hebrews 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27 (143). “Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor . . . then come, follow me.”

Monday, Oct 15, 2018

MEMORIAL OF TERESA OF JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Be bold in prayer

A sampling from Saint Teresa of Ávila’s autobiography (completed in 1565) reveals her bold, brilliant, and utterly endearing approach to prayer: “I had quite lost trust in myself and was placing all my confidence in God. I believe I told Him then that I would not rise from that spot until He had granted me what I was beseeching. I feel sure that this did me good, for from that time onward I began to improve.” Teresa was fearless in her demand for God’s attention as she worked her way toward divine union. Be brave today and let the Holy Spirit with Teresa’s aid teach you what to say as you pray.

TODAY’S READINGS: Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1; Luke 11:29-32 (467). “At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here.”

Tuesday, Oct 16, 2018

MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, VIRGIN

Set your heart on fire

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque had a deep and abiding devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is often depicted as a heart on fire and pierced with a crown of thorns. For Margaret Mary, this image was a reminder of the very real suffering and sacrifices Jesus made out of unending love for us. Call to mind the Sacred Heart the next time you are having a difficult day and need a reminder of the intensity of God’s love for you. There is nothing that can keep you from receiving God’s healing embrace except your own will to do so.

TODAY’S READINGS: Galatians 5:1-6; Luke 11:37-41 (468). “Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil.”

Wednesday, Oct 17, 2018

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

Everyone is welcome

If it weren’t for Saint Ignatius of Antioch (c. 50-107), who way back in the first century used the word *catholic* in his description of the early church, what might our church be called today? *Catholic* works because it speaks to the unity and the diversity that continues to make the church universal for all people of all times and all places. That ours is the church of the apostles and those who followed them, like Ignatius, is both reassuring and challenging. Today savor the richness of our universal church.

TODAY’S READINGS: Galatians 5:18-25; Luke 11:42-46 (469). “You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them.”

Thursday, Oct 18, 2018

FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

Shared meals are doubly blessed

We probably think of the Last Supper as the moment when Jesus made all meals sacred. But, according to Saint Luke, whose feast we celebrate today, nearly every meal Jesus ate was a radical act of love. He sat down with anyone and everyone: saints and sinners, Pharisees and prostitutes. Dorothy Day understood Jesus’ actions this way: “We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love each other we must know each other in the breaking of the bread. . . . Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. Love comes with community.”

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661). “Remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid.”

Friday, Oct 19, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Give your all

The Jesuit Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues came to North America largely to convert as many members of the Huron tribe to the Catholic faith as possible. The story of the encounter of these men with the indigenous people had consequences for both sides. But their lives and deaths watered the seeds of faith, as the blood of martyrs often does, and helped bring Catholicism to this continent. Remember their courage and perseverance the next time you are called upon to make a sacrifice.

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 1:11-14; Luke 12:1-7 (471). “Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid.”

Saturday, Oct 20, 2018

MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

Wait for your answer

While a young man, Saint Paul of the Cross was unsure which direction his life should take—a military or business career? Marriage? Then one day he was listening to a homily on the sufferings of Jesus, and it all made sense to him: He would redirect his life to bring others the message of God’s love expressed in Christ’s Passion. He desired to form a community of the like-minded to pursue this mission, but he had to wait more than two decades—years he spent as a hospital chaplain and traveling preacher—before the church officially gave him permission to found a religious order, the Passionists. It can take time to find one’s calling and be confirmed in it. But the satisfaction is worth the wait.

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 12:8-12 (472). “The Holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you should say.”

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



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