

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Try a little tenderness

Pope Francis reminds us that Catholics are a mission people. During this Year of Mercy, the mission of the church takes on a special meaning, he says. "All of us are invited to 'go out' as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom, and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family." Tenderness seems to be in short supply these days, especially in the midst of an often harsh election season. Where can you bring a little mercy to bear on the public conversation?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14 (150)*. "The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity.'"

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP

### Read all about it

How do you keep up on events in your church or faith community? Chances are, you have at some point seen a website or read a paper published by a member of the Catholic Press Association. The association has been around for more than a hundred years and has more than 600 members. The Catholic press is a great resource for Catholics to learn about their faith and traditions. And the organization looks to Saint Anthony Mary Claret, a prolific author and publisher, for inspiration as its patron saint. Be a patron of the Catholic press in your diocese, so that it can continue to inform and inspire future generations.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 4:32—5:8; Luke 13:10-17 (479)*. "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

### Can't put a good book down

Sometimes when you reach the end of a story, you feel exhilarated by the experience of it. And sometimes it's so good, you read it again. In Judaism, Simchat Torah, the holiday celebrated today, means "Rejoicing in the Torah" and marks the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings that starts with the beginning of Genesis and concludes with the end of Deuteronomy. This festive day is so joyous that there is sometimes even dancing in the street! The cycle of readings is immediately and endlessly repeated. Pick up the Good Book today and every day.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 5:21-33; Luke 13:18-21 (480)*. "What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it?"

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

### Come on in

During this year, the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy which ends on November 20, Catholics have the opportunity to pass through special holy doors of mercy, designated at cathedrals and



major churches all over the world, and receive an indulgence for the remission of sin. By symbolically opening a door and walking through it, you show that you seek God's boundless compassion and forgiveness and that you will find it in Christ. Enter the holy doors at a church near you before the Year of Mercy is out—and invite others to come along.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 6:1-9; Luke 13:22-30 (481)*. "Lord, open the door for us."

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

### Healing power of prayer

When it comes to your health, you can always turn to the saints for help. In fact, there are many saints who are known to intercede on behalf of the sick for particular ailments and conditions. About to have surgery? Ask Saint Luke the Evangelist. Suffering from arthritis? Invoke Saint Alphonsus Ligouri. Have a headache? Entreat Saint Teresa of Avila. Catholics also have a sacrament for healing: Anointing of the Sick. No matter the physical outcome, remember that the primary purpose of your prayers is for spiritual healing, comfort, and courage.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-35 (482)*. "Behold, I cast out

*demons and I perform healings today and tomorrow, and on the third day I accomplish my purpose."*

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

### How can I help you, pray tell?

We don't know a lot about the life of Saint Jude, one of the apostles, but people often turn to him for intercession in "hopeless causes." A friend in need is a friend indeed, so be that kind of friend for those in need in your own life. When they ask for help, find a way to respond. You can't do everything for them, but as Jesuit Daniel Berrigan once said, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." Take Saint Jude as your inspiration and find a way to bring hope to the hopeless.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666)*. "Jesus went up to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God."

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

### Glory is a holy mystery

The death of boxer and social agitator Muhammad Ali this year touched admirers worldwide. The achievements of men and women like Ali are greater than the sum of their defeats. While the self-proclaimed "Greatest" was a phenomenon at his sport, Ali did more to raise the consciousness of Americans to the racism that permeated his generation. Prejudice will remain our nation's scourge until all lives matter. Lift your eyes and offer your heart to the Rosary's Glorious Mysteries, in which new ways are possible, and the humblest wears the crown.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Philippians 1:18b-26; Luke 14:1, 7-11 (484)*. "For to me life is Christ and death is gain."



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

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