



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Happy Father's Day!

There are so many things in daily life taken for granted. For many fortunate Catholics, one of those things is that there will be a priest in church to say Mass on Sundays. Today is Priesthood Sunday, which honors the special role priests play in our lives, in parishes, and in communities at large. Laity all over the country celebrate this day at Mass, with school activities, and with social events. It's an opportunity for priests and parishioners to build stronger relationships and encourage vocations in the future. How will you let your priest know how much you appreciate him?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 11:22—12:2*; *2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2*; *Luke 19:1-10* (153). "Today salvation has come to this house."

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

### Be not afraid

Halloween isn't entirely about costumes and candy. The word itself is an abbreviated form of "All Hallows' Eve," which is the vigil of the feast day tomorrow, the Solemnity of All Saints. All Souls' Day is the day after that. This is a time to remember the dead, and it's important to honor their lives with as much joy and festivity as solemnity. Halloween is an opportunity to do just that. After all, death—while undoubtedly scary—is a reality that should be acknowledged, and its conquest by Christ celebrated.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Philippians 2:1-4*; *Luke 14:12-14* (485). "You will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

### You too are called

This is the day to remember your ancestors in faith who now live with God. And it is a day to renew your commitment to live faithfully so one day you will find your home with them. Some of these ancestors are officially canonized as saints by the church. Others are known as saintly to their families or the local community. But all of them made a mark on the world because of their "heroic virtue and fidelity to God's grace." As you celebrate at Mass today, remember that saints are models for you to imitate and friends who can intercede on your behalf. Whether it is Mother Teresa's compassion or your grandmother's wisdom that inspires you, don't be afraid to ask for their help to live as best you can.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14*; *1 John 3:1-3*; *Matthew 5:1-12a* (667). "Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God."



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

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## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

### Soul food from way back

In England and Ireland in the Middle Ages, soul cakes were prepared at this time of year in the belief that they would help the dead in their journey through the afterlife. The cakes were handed out at the door to children and poor people who "went souling" and sang: "A soul! a soul! a soul-cake! Please good Missis, a soul-cake! An apple, a pear, a plum, or a cherry, any good thing to make us all merry. One for Peter, two for Paul, three for Him who made us all." Say amen for the original soul food!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 3:1-9*; *Romans 5:5-11* or *Romans 6:3-9*; *John 6:37-40* (668). "I will not reject anyone who comes to me."

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3 MEMORIAL OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS HOLINESS OVERCOMES DIVISIONS

Born in Peru in 1579, Saint Martin de Porres, the child of unwed parents of two different races, occupied the lowest level of society, so much so that he didn't feel worthy to become a Dominican brother, applying rather to be a "lay helper." After years of service, his community, inspired by his example and prayer life, asked him to make full profession. Martin was known to treat all people equally no matter their race or status, with special attention to those on the bottom of the social ladder. As the world continues to struggle with race relations today, let us pray to be like Saint Martin de Porres: humble servants seeking pure hearts.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Philippians 3:3-8a*; *Luke 15:1-10* (488). "There will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES BORROMEIO, BISHOP

### Teach from the heart

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Catholics have been urged to perform the works of mercy, one of which is to instruct those lacking education. Saint Charles Borromeo understood that poor education leads to abuses, and during the Counter-Reformation, he established seminaries for clergy, who often had received scant education prior to that. His efforts helped quell corruption in the church. How can you take what you learned this year about mercy and help educate others in how to practice it?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Philippians 3:17—4:1*; *Luke 16:1-8* (489). "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than the children of light."

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

### Eyes on the prize

Jesus told his disciples the "person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones." It's the small deeds of the everyday that reveal to us how we will respond in the larger moments of life. If we make a habit of doing what's right and strive to live lives faithful to the gospel in the ordinary moments, we will find that the extraordinary work of God comes through in every moment. Let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, so that no matter the circumstance we are assured that God's promises will shine through.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Philippians 4:10-19*; *Luke 16:9-15* (490). "My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."