



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ask and receive

Today begins National Vocation Awareness Week, during which Catholics celebrate and encourage vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. It's important for every Catholic to participate in creating what the bishops call a "culture of vocations," and that includes praying for vocations and proposing vocations to young people. Many priests, sisters, and brothers have said that they first considered a vocation when someone simply asked them if they would consider it. Do you know a special young person who might answer the call if you asked them the question?

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5; Luke 20:27-38 (156). "... they are like angels; and they are the children of God."

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Lead the way

Many of us have an opinion on how the Catholic Church should be led. We all have our favorite popes, our liturgical gripes, our preferred spiritual authors, and our hot-button issues. If it were up to us, we would know in which direction to point the church. But what if it really *is* up to us? Is it possible this clarity and certainty in your vision is a call from the Holy Spirit to seek a role of service through leadership? Consider the gifts that qualify you to lead.

TODAY'S READINGS: Titus 1:1-9; Luke 17:1-6 (491). "For a bishop as God's steward must be . . . hospitable, a lover of goodness, temperate, holy, just, and self-controlled."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Vote, vote, vote!

Leadership is a responsibility that belongs to all of us. Even if we don't hold an office and title, we're tasked with choosing those who do. As Pope Francis has said, "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: A good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: Good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." The primary civic obligation we have is to cast our vote. Millions in this world have no vote and therefore no voice. Raise your voice with your vote today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10 (492). "[Show] yourself as a model . . . with integrity in your teaching, dignity, and sound speech."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Home sweet home

The pope, in addition to being the head of the church, is also the bishop of Rome, whose cathedral is the Papal Archbasilica of St. John in Lateran. It is the oldest church in the West and the mother church of all Roman Catholics. So in addition to the local church that is your spiritual home, you have another that you share with the faithful everywhere. How fitting that this building has a feast day of its own. Celebrate it with prayer and gratitude for the world family it "houses."

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671). "Zeal for your house will consume me."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

MEMORIAL OF LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Believe and let believe

A few pope-saints are called "great" for significantly contributing to the growth of the faith, often by opposing heresy. Leo, in the fifth century, oversaw great development in the tenets of the Creed that we profess every Sunday morning, but which arose out of intense theological debate. If you ever feel the need to defend or justify your faith, wonderful, but don't become embroiled in arguments and defensiveness. Take a step beyond what you learned in religion class. Consult the [Catechism](#); study reliable Internet sources, but do your homework—some websites that call themselves "Catholic" have a bias. Stand up for the faith, but know what you are standing for.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25 (494). "For behold, the kingdom of God is among you."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP

Serve someone who has already served

Consider this cartoon in two panels: The first—"The Unknown Soldier"—depicts flowers and wreaths placed before a monument. The second panel—"The Known Soldier"—shows a homeless, suicidal veteran with PTSD begging, completely ignored. Saint Martin is the patron of the archdiocese for U.S. military chaplains. Martin shared his cloak with a beggar, only to discover in a dream that the beggar was Christ. Ever seen Christ begging at a traffic light? Be like the military chaplains, who soldiers see as fellow warriors. [You, too, can minister to vets](#). Let's all fight for their honor.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 John 4-9; Luke 17:26 (495). "The commandment we have had from the beginning: let us love one another."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

MEMORIAL OF JOSAPHAT, BISHOP, MARTYR

Division doesn't add up

Ukraine is in the news these days because of an East-West conflict being played out with Russia. Five centuries ago, the region was embroiled in another East-West conflict, this one between the western (Roman) and eastern (Orthodox) branches of Catholicism. Josaphat, an Eastern Rite bishop, is held up as a martyr for church unity because he died trying to bring part of the Orthodox Church into union with Rome. The unsung heroes of his story are some Jewish people who risked their lives to try to save Josaphat from the angry mob that killed him. Resist mob mentality wherever you encounter it—including in politics, the media, and online. Be a voice for unity, not division.

TODAY'S READINGS: 3 John 5-8; Luke 18:1-8 (496). "Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"



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

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