

## Sunday, Nov 12, 2017

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Attention!

A consistent theme of these weeks leading to Advent is akin to the motto of the U.S. Coast Guard: *Semper paratus*: “Always ready.” For what? The military remains ready for threats or disasters like a tornado or flood, but Jesus’ call to be ready always is neither a threat nor a prediction of catastrophe. It is his expectation that we be aware of the presence of the sacred as we move through even the most ordinary day. Mary Oliver suggests the same in her poem “The Summer Day”: “I don’t know exactly what a prayer is. / I do know how to pay attention.” Being prepared for the coming of Christ means keeping eyes and ears, hearts and minds open. The sacred, the Christ, is all around you.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13 (154). “*Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*”

## Monday, Nov 13, 2017

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, VIRGIN

### Trust your calling

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the religious institute founded by the first U.S. citizen saint Frances Cabrini (1850-1917), say that it is not what Mother Cabrini accomplished or how far she traveled that made her a great missionary saint. It was how she allowed God to accomplish remarkable achievements in and through her. Her immense love of God empowered her to reach out to the poor, the needy, and immigrants. Mother Cabrini, no doubt, was confident that she was doing only what she ought. Pray for such confidence.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 1:1-7; Luke 17:1-6 (491). “*If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.*”

## Tuesday, Nov 14, 2017

### Don’t expect applause

Obligations can often feel like thankless drudgery: going to work, cleaning the house, feeding your kids. A lot of the time it seems like no one notices, much less gives you a pat on the back. While it’s important to be grateful for the ordinary things others do, be careful not to expect kudos yourself. We’re called to be servants if we follow Christ and treat others as the brothers and sisters they are. Remember that the things you are responsible for—your job, your house, your kids, and even your fellow men and women—are all gifts, and good work is always its own best reward.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 2:23—3:9; Luke 17:7-10 (492). “*We have done only what we ought to have done!*”

## Wednesday, Nov 15, 2017

MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### God is mysterious, naturally

Albert was known for his vast knowledge in all areas of learning. He was Saint Thomas Aquinas’ tutor, a man skilled in all the sciences of his age. Albert did not fear science; for him there was no contradiction between what he learned about the natural world through scientific observation and what he believed as a person of faith. People of mature faith have nothing to fear from scientific observations and methods. The more we learn about the natural world, the more we will appreciate both the limits of our own understanding and the mysterious ways of God.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19 (493). “*He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him.*”

## Thursday, Nov 16, 2017

MEMORIAL OF MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

### Make a difference for the good

If you think you can’t make a difference, remember Queen Margaret of Scotland. A refugee from the Norman invasion of England, Margaret was a pious queen who sponsored Christian hermits and Benedictine monks, cared for the sick, and built hostels for the poor. Especially during Advent and Lent, she held large feasts for the common people in the castle. She even summoned a council to undertake reforms in the Scottish church, the decisions of which were known as the “Five Articles of Margaret.” Consider how you can use your influence and resources to work for positive change.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 7:22b—8:1; Luke 17:20-25 (494). “*The kingdom of God is among you.*”

## Friday, Nov 17, 2017

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS

### Do good, regardless of the reception

During her marriage to the German prince Louis, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-31) gained a reputation for generosity to the poor and sick. But Louis’ family was hostile to Elizabeth and her open-handed ways, and when he died in an epidemic, her enemies sent her and her children into a life of poverty. After recovering from this blow, Elizabeth, inspired by the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, established a small house of hospitality, and for the last years of her short life served the poor, the elderly, and the sick. It’s ironic how being generous can make a person unpopular. But there is never any shame in serving Christ’s poor. Make a habit of helping the aged, ill, and destitute around you.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495). “*Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it.*”

## Saturday, Nov 18, 2017

MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, VIRGIN

### Own your authority

Business guru Peter Drucker said, “Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.” We see this principle at work every day: in the boss who motivates her staff by speaking authoritatively rather than imposing her authority, in parents who earn their kids’ respect rather than demanding it. Persistence was key for Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852), whose religious order was scattered by the French Revolution, who then made a grueling trip to the U.S. frontier to work with Native Americans. Reflect on what it might mean to be more authoritative in your own life.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 18:14-1; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8 (496). “*When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?*”

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



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