

## Sunday, May 31, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

### The Spirit is still at work

The traditional Pentecost hymn is “Veni Sancte Spiritus” (“Come, Holy Spirit”). It’s called the Golden Sequence—a sequence being a prayer that precedes the gospel reading. It became part of the Pentecost liturgy in the 16th century but was written earlier, probably by Cardinal Stephen Langton of Canterbury around the year 1200. It’s tempting to treat the Mass as something that fell from heaven as is. Liturgy is a collaborative effort, woven across centuries—and evolving still. Put your unique stamp on it.

TODAY’S READINGS: Day: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23 (63). “*Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’*”

## Monday, Jun 01, 2020

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

### Sing of Mary

Today’s celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary is still new for the Catholic Church, having been decreed by Pope Francis in 2018. But Mary’s tender loving care has been sung throughout the ages. Yes, we experience her maternal protection for each and every one of us. But it’s another thing to honor her universally as protectress of the Mystical Body of Christ. That’s why this memorial comes when it does: the day after Pentecost Sunday—the birthday of the church. Let us honor Mary in the manner of the decree, as “Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed”—namely, Christ’s mother and ours.

TODAY’S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; John 19:25-34 (572A). “*Behold, your mother.*”

## Tuesday, Jun 02, 2020

MEMORIAL OF MARCELLINUS AND PETER, MARTYRS

### Take notice

Today’s rather obscure saints from the early church are included in the Roman Martyrology, a catalog of saints who suffered martyrdom during the era of persecution of early Christians. While some claim Catholicism places too much emphasis on suffering and death, recent events suggest there is a deeper wisdom at work in the Martyrology. In times of crisis, heroic witness often involves willingness to suffer or perhaps even die for a worthy cause. Honor martyrs past and present for their witness.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18; Mark 12:13-17 (354). “*Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.*”

## Wednesday, Jun 03, 2020

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

### And the youth shall lead us

The world today is blessed with many young people willing to take a stand on major issues of our time. They work to end violence in schools and on our streets, protect lives, and ensure that future generations and the earth will thrive. Today in the church we honor a group of teens and 20-somethings who stood up for one another amid the threat of violence and death. Charles Lwanga and his 21 companions were martyred in Uganda in 1886 because their Catholic faith opposed the ruling king’s violent

ways. In light of your faith, when and where are you called to take a stand?

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Mark 12:18-27 (355). “*I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have.*”

## Thursday, Jun 04, 2020

### Not worth fighting about

Timothy was a peacemaker in the early church. He urged members of newly formed congregations to work out their differences rather than foster needless division. Sadly church life (Catholic and otherwise) still involves far too many stories of division—sometimes over the smallest things. Whatever your community’s issue might be, be a voice for reasonable compromise.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Mark 12:28-34 (356). “*Tell them in the name of God that there must be no wrangling about words: all that this ever achieves is the destruction of those who are listening.*”

## Friday, Jun 05, 2020

MEMORIAL OF BONIFACE, BISHOP, MARTYR

### Aging can bring strengths

The COVID-19 crisis highlights the health risks older folks face. At the same time, it has led occasionally to examples of ageism—the tendency to see someone as weak or infirm simply because of their age. Saint Boniface would have none of that. Traversing the rugged terrain of what is now Germany during the wild and untamed Middle Ages, he continued his tireless evangelization efforts well into his 70s. In fact, only martyrdom could bring his ministry to a close. “Respect your elders” means respecting their ability to continue making meaningful contributions.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Timothy 3:10-17; Mark 12:35-37 (357). “*From all these things the Lord delivered me.*”

## Saturday, Jun 06, 2020

MEMORIAL OF NORBERT, BISHOP

### Humble pie belongs on every menu

Saint Norbert was a key figure in reforming the medieval church and monastic life. An ascetic at heart, he wore the simplest garb and walked barefoot even in winter. Having been appointed archbishop of Magdeburg in 1126 against his wishes, he arrived at the episcopal residence only to be met by a doorman who took him to be a beggar and turned him away! Church officials quickly explained the error to the doorman, but Norbert turned to him and said, “You were right the first time.” A healthy sense of humility will take each of us far.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Mark 12:38-44 (358). “*Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.*”

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



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