

Sunday, Oct 25, 2020

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Worship the God of glory

Leadership earns public honors, and the best leaders exercise humility in accepting them. Pope Francis began his papacy by donning simple attire and asking for our prayers before offering his first blessing. Genuine leadership recognizes that all authority comes from God. Today is Priesthood Sunday, honoring the multitudes of pastors who did their job this year with passion, grace, and ingenuity under extraordinary circumstances. Pray the Rosary's Glorious Mysteries for those who lead us to: rise up from despair, lift our gaze upward, encounter the Spirit's power, give ourselves body and soul, and accept honor with grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40 (148). *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

Monday, Oct 26, 2020

Slow down, you're moving too fast

Too many people work too much. Some have a psychological compulsion to work incessantly. Some work excessively to acquire money and success. Some have no identity outside of their jobs. Some are driven by guilt and fear of being lazy. Some think that an overly busy work life makes them look important. And far too many are forced to work too much in order to make ends meet. None of these reasons are healthy or holy. God wants us to rest and enjoy life too—thus, the sabbath day. Let's work together to create a just society where all can get some rest.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:32—5:8; Luke 13:10-17 (479). *"Ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day from this bondage?"*

Tuesday, Oct 27, 2020

Console the consolers

Prayerful words from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, written by NACC member Lisa Ecks: "May the wilderness of this time, and the uncertainty we may feel, strengthen our resolve to lean on your word, abide in your presence, and be guided by your enduring and powerful Spirit." The NACC helps priests, religious women, and laypeople bring a trained, professional experience to their ministry of caring for the sick. Pray for all hospital chaplains during this Pastoral Care Week. They're consoling not just COVID-19 patients but medical workers on the front lines.

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

Wednesday, Oct 28, 2020

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

Obscure but still important

Much of what we know about apostles Jude and Simon is who they are *not*. Simon was called the Zealot—someone passionate, and perhaps revolutionary, about his Jewish faith. Calling him the Zealot also helped to distinguish him from the more famous Simon Peter. We find Jude (along with Judas, variant translations of the name Judah) mentioned in the list of the apostles in Luke and Acts, but he is called Thaddeus in Matthew and Mark, perhaps to distinguish him from the traitor Judas Iscariot.

Regardless of their relative obscurity, Jude and Simon were chosen by Jesus to share the Good News and there is every indication they did just that. Even if your life seems quiet and unremarkable to you in some ways, the call to discipleship is your call as well. Saint Jude and Saint Simon, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). *"Jesus called the disciples to himself. . . . Simon who was called the Zealot and Judas the son of James."*

Thursday, Oct 29, 2020

Do the right thing

Even in this day and age, Christians standing up for what is right have been killed for their efforts. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. comes to mind. So does Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, of Dayton, Ohio, who was murdered in 2005 for defending the poor and protected lands in the Amazon rain forest in Brazil. Would you allow yourself to be inconvenienced (or more) to do the right thing? Look for a way to stand up for a good cause today, even if it feels inconvenient.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-35 (482). *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . how many times I yearned to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings."*

Friday, Oct 30, 2020

A time for healing

One of the comforting takeaways from our experience of church during the pandemic is that people are more important than rules. The obligation to physically participate in Sunday Mass has been dispensed during the pandemic by our bishops. We are given the opportunity to make a "spiritual communion" instead. We don't have to go to Confession to be absolved of our sins. A sincere Act of Contrition and a resolve to celebrate the sacrament when it once again becomes available is sufficient. Just as Jesus set aside the sabbath commandment in order to heal, so too our bishops set aside the precepts so that we may be healed. Let's pray today for our bishops, and for a time of healing.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philippians 1:1-11; Luke 14:1-6 (483). *"The one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it."*

Saturday, Oct 31, 2020

Meal ministry

One of the many things to be longed for during this extended time of physical distancing is the free and easy sharing of meals with family and friends, in groups large and small. Shared meals hold a special place in family life, and in Catholic life as well. It's no mystery why meals are central. Something magical happens at mealtime, the communion among people is palpable. And in Catholic life, Communion is sacred. Pray we may safely gather again without appointment or extra precautions in the not distant future and freely share the mysteries of our faith in the bread and wine, the Body and Blood. Until then, let us raise a glass in remembrance of Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philippians 1:18b-26; Luke 14:1, 7-11 (484). *"On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully."*

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



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