

Sunday, Nov 08, 2020

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prudence is my co-pilot

Some of us can still recite the four Cardinal Virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. They're good not just to recite but also to practice. Virtues are good habits; i.e., things we *don't* have to surrender for Lent. *Cardinal*, meanwhile, means "hinge." Put together, the four hinge virtues swing open the door to a life well lived. Prudence is called the pilot of the virtues because it enables us to discern the good and how best to accomplish it. When a decision is important, reflect on it through the lens of scripture. How is God inviting you to proceed?

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13 (154). *"Wisdom 'is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her.'"*

Monday, Nov 09, 2020

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Open the door and look at all the people

Why would there be a feast day for a church? Because it's the "mother of all churches," one that all Catholics can call their own, and so we all celebrate its dedication in the year 324. Christianity had only recently been legalized in the Roman Empire, and the Lateran Basilica—full name: Cathedral of the Most Holy Savior and of Saints John the Baptist and the Evangelist in the Lateran—was the first church in Rome and, to this day, remains the pope's church as the bishop of Rome. Keep passing on the faith of the Mother Church that has been passed down to you through the centuries.

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

Tuesday, Nov 10, 2020

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

The great pope who did good things

Leo the Great was the first pope to be called "Great." His diplomacy kept Attila the Hun from attacking Rome. His authoritative teaching solidified the role of the bishop of Rome as Saint Peter's successor. And his eloquent prose—detailing the two natures of Jesus Christ, both human and divine—was key to defeating heresy at the Council of Chalcedon. "Peter has spoken through Leo," marveled the bishops of Chalcedon. "The infancy of the Babe is exhibited by the humiliation of swaddling clothes," wrote Leo, while "the greatness of the Highest is declared by the voices of angels."

TODAY'S READINGS: Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10 (492). *"We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do."*

Wednesday, Nov 11, 2020

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP

Half of what I have is yours

Fourth-century Bishop Martin of Tours was not born to the faith but chose it for himself as a young man. He followed his father into the Roman army but found that he could not remain a soldier; Martin is one of the earliest documented conscientious objectors. Yet it was while serving as a soldier that perhaps the most famous episode of Martin's life occurred. Coming upon a naked beggar, Martin took out his sword, cut his own cloak in two, and shared it with the poor soul. Martin was a founder of

monasteries, a popularly acclaimed bishop, destroyer of pagan shrines and builder of churches, and most of all, he inspires us to share what we have with those most in need.

TODAY'S READINGS: Titus 3:1-7; Luke 17:11-19 (493). *"Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."*

Thursday, Nov 12, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOSAPHAT, BISHOP, MARTYR

Draw courage from Josaphat

Books of saints have long been filled with the gore of martyrs, but the story of Josaphat is shocking even in that bloody context. Josaphat, a Polish Byzantine priest and archbishop, was embroiled in controversy for much of his life because of his emphasis on reforming lax practices within the church and striving for unity among Christians. After years of wrangling, his enemies mobbed him, killed him, and tossed his beaten body into a river in 1623. With Josaphat's courage as a model, take a step today to support the ongoing reform efforts in the church, including efforts to end sexual abuse in the church we love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25 (494). *"No one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you."*

Friday, Nov 13, 2020

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, VIRGIN

Do likewise

What would we do if a saint of God rose in our midst today and instructed us in the proper care of people who are immigrants and refugees at our borders? Would that saint's halo give us any more certitude to stand behind every effort to protect the lives of women, men, and children seeking a safe home? Just over 100 years ago we had such a saint showing us the way. Frances Xavier Cabrini was called by Pope Leo XIII to tend to the many immigrants landing on the shores of the United States in the late 1800s. She built schools, orphanages, and hospitals to tend to them. Though she met resistance, she persisted, and her legacy lives on in each of us and our ancestors, for the most part immigrants. How do we honor this legacy in our own treatment of immigrants and refugees today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 John 4-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495). *"Look to yourselves that you do not lose what we worked for."*

Saturday, Nov 14, 2020

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Let your soul proclaim greatness

Take an opportunity today to celebrate Mary, who found her voice in difficult circumstances so that we might follow her voice and find our own in these difficult times. Read her "Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-56) for a canticle to the power of trust. Imagine how she waited years to understand her son's calling, grieved his inconceivable death, and then, in the many years of her grief, nurtured the early Christian community. That's greatness!

TODAY'S READINGS: 3 John 5-8; Luke 18:1-8 (496). *"Will [God] be slow to answer them?"*

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



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