

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Not just another day

“Casual Fridays” began in the 1990s. Employers were trying to improve office morale without spending any money, so workers were permitted to wear jeans, T-shirts, and flip-flops to work. A look at the Communion procession in most contemporary churches this morning would indicate the idea has spread even to Sunday Mass. If formality in church attire has disappeared, what about honoring the day of the Lord by remembering, “Keep holy the Sabbath Day”? Find a way to make Sunday different from other days of the week in your home.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31 (138). “But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.”

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

MEMORIAL OF COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

For the public good

Cosmas and Damian were brother physicians in the early church, famous for never accepting payment for their work as a way to witness to their deep Christian faith. While most of us need to earn an income off our professional skills, we also can let these saintly brother doctors inspire us to offer our skills in some volunteer or *pro bono* (for the public good) work. Look for a way to match your skills to society's needs and volunteer somewhere today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50 (455). “Whoever is not against you is for you.”

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST

Master of your soul

Life in Europe around 1600 was filled with uncertainty and danger. Vincent de Paul, a priest living comfortably in France, was enslaved after being abducted by pirates during a sea voyage. He was bought and sold several times in Muslim countries and ended up with a master who had converted to Islam to obtain his own freedom from slavery. Vincent's example of steadfastness convinced the master to return to the Catholic faith, and they fled back to France and freedom. Every situation in life, no matter how dire, offers an opportunity to witness to the power of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). “The disciples . . . asked, ‘Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?’ Jesus turned and rebuked them.”

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

MEMORIAL OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR

When the going gets tough

“Good King Wenceslaus” is a Christmas carol about a Czech king, who was later martyred and sainted, but who first braved a long journey in a snowstorm, giving alms to the poor along the way. The king's servant struggled to continue in the harsh weather, but managed to do so by following Wenceslaus' footprints in the snow. Christ, the saints, and myriad Christians before you have already beaten the path you've been called by your Baptism to take. Following their lead will help you through the trying conditions along it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62 (457). “No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

I hear the rush of angels' wings

Go on: Try to argue that you don't miss the angels. When we were kids, angels were dear divine lifeguards to whom we were committed by God's love, in the words of a popular prayer. But somewhere between surrendering Santa and the Tooth Fairy, many of us lost a sense of a celestial companion, a divine messenger, a fighting force for good at our side “to light and guard, to rule and guide” us along life's journey. While faith in winged beings is optional, the conviction that we're divinely accompanied, advised, and rescued is not. Jesus believes in angels. He should know!

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51 (647). “You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

A word so deep

“Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” In the fourth century, Jerome was a priest who peculiarly never celebrated the Mass. Instead, he dedicated his life to creating a new translation of the Bible. To probe the mysteries of the Old Testament, he studied Hebrew with rabbis in the Holy Land—a collaboration no Christian had considered for centuries. Aided by lay women like Saint Paula who assisted his work and financially supported him, Jerome labored in a cave in Bethlehem until his death. Catch the spark of Jerome’s passion. Read the Bible regularly.

TODAY’S READINGS: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Luke 10:13-16 (459).

“Have you entered into the source of the sea, or walked about in the depths of the abyss?”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Less is more

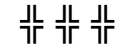
Thérèse is one of the most beloved of saints because she found “a little way” to sanctity and made it accessible to all. A sickly child and frail adult who died in 1897 at the tender age of 24, Thérèse nonetheless left her mark on the spiritual life by discovering the strength in being weak. As she wrote: “I will seek out a means of getting to Heaven by a little way—very short and very straight, a little way that is wholly new. . . . To get there I need not grow; on the contrary, I must remain little, I must become still less.” What *less* can you do?

TODAY’S READINGS: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24 (460). “Many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it.”



TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH

DAILY RENEWAL FOR BUSY CATHOLICS



THE TWENTY-SIXTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

For September 25 – October 1, 2016



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

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Contributors: Alice Camille, Peg Ekerdt, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Jennifer Tomshack, Patrice J. Tuohy

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