



## SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017 SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST You are gifted

Your Confirmation celebrated the fact that you are being given the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They're not one-time gifts, but rather gifts that keep on giving. They are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, courage, reverence, and wonder in God's presence. They're yours for the taking, but many of us fail to notice their availability. Watch for them in your life—when you have sudden bursts of wisdom, when you exhibit courage, when you are awestruck by a moment of beauty or love or forgiveness. These are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive in your life. Look for them.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; Veni Sancte Spiritus; John 20:19-23 (63)*. "He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

## MONDAY, JUNE 5 MEMORIAL OF BONIFACE, BISHOP, MARTYR Confirmed on a daily basis

Confirmation can seem like the odd sacrament out among the seven. Sometimes it's joined to Baptism in the initiation of adults (RCIA) that we recently celebrated at Easter. More commonly it's a teen rite of passage when young people get to embrace personally the faith to which their parents and godparents pledged them. For Saint Boniface (c. 680-754), it was the occasion of his martyrdom as he waited in the open fields for his converts to arrive for the ritual. His enemies' ambush offered its own confirmation of the faith of Boniface and his attendants. How does your faith get "confirmed" day by day?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 1:3; 2:1a-8; Mark 12:1-12 (353)*. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

## TUESDAY, JUNE 6 MEMORIAL OF NORBERT, BISHOP Faith is more than horseplay

Many think Saint Paul converted to Christianity when he was knocked from his horse on the road to Damascus. Read about it in the Acts of the Apostles, and you'll find a dramatic tale of conversion, but no horse. Fast-forward 1,000 years or so to the young and carefree nobleman Norbert riding an actual horse on a road in Germany. A thunderstorm spooked the animal, which threw Norbert to the ground, knocking him out. When he regained consciousness, he said, "Lord, what would you have me do?" The answer he heard: "Turn away from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it." Keep your heart and mind open to God's call to reorient your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 2:9-14; Mark 12:13-17 (354)*. "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

### Here are three good reasons

You may have noticed at Mass as the celebrant says, "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to . . ." that he traces a sign of the cross on the open book. At the same time, people in the congregation make a small sign of the cross on their foreheads, lips, and heart. This practice dates back at least as far as the 11th century. The significance of this threefold signing is to express our desire and intention to hear the gospel with an open mind, proclaim it with our lips, and cherish and safeguard it in our hearts. Make this a conscious habit at Mass and it will help you carry the gospel with you into the world in how you think, what you say, and how you live.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Mark 12:18-27 (355)*. "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior."

## THURSDAY, JUNE 8

### MEMORIAL OF EPHREM OF SYRIA, DEACON, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH How can you keep from singing?

Saint Ephrem (fourth century) was not much to look at. Small, shriveled, his clothes in patches and covered with dirt, he lived in a cave and ate barley bread and vegetables. Nutritionists might not have approved of his diet, but everyone, it seemed, loved his music. They called him the "harp of the Holy Ghost" because of the hymns and homilies he composed. Ephrem was one of the first to appreciate the power of sacred song to move the assembly in worship. Take the words of one of your favorite hymns to prayer, and include singing in your personal devotion.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a; Mark 12:28-34 (356)*. "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

## FRIDAY, JUNE 9

### Pray for imperfect leaders

King David was very much a flawed leader. Even so he is acclaimed as a great defender of his people, a gifted musician, and a poet and is revered not only in Jewish culture but by Christians and Muslims as well. The honorific title "Son of David" was often applied to Jesus, proving that good results can indeed come from our leaders, flawed though they are. Today is a good day to pray for all elected leaders, asking God to guide them to faithfully fulfill the duties of their offices and to seek justice, peace, and the common good in all of their efforts.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 11:5-17; Mark 12:35-37 (357)*. "Blessed be God, and praised be his great name, and blessed be all his holy angels."

## SATURDAY, JUNE 10 MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Hail Mary in many ways

Devotion to Mary has a long tradition in the church. Inscriptions and prayers to Mary began appearing early in Christian history, and popular devotion to Our Lady has been a part of Catholic life ever since. A lovely Irish litany from the eighth century captures the flavor of that devotion, as fresh today as it was centuries ago. Perhaps you can recite it a few times today. Mary is honored as: "Mistress of the Heavens, Mother of the Heavenly and Earthly Church, Recreation of Life, Mistress of the Tribes, Mother of the Orphans, Breast of the Infants, Queen of Life, Ladder of Heaven."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20; Mark 12:38-44 (358)*. "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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