



SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016 TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Happy Abba day!

In modern-day Hebrew, the word *Abba* translates to mean “Daddy.” It is a term filled with love and trust. Abba is the one who holds you close, who loves you dearly, and who takes pride in the person you are. Jesus, in Aramaic, used the word Abba to speak to God. Jesus reminds us that it is this Father’s love that has created us and calls us to life. This God has chosen us and gives us his only son, so that we might truly know that we are, always and forever, Abba’s children.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1; Galatians 3:26-29; Luke 9:18-24 (96)*. “Through faith you are all children of God.”

MONDAY, JUNE 20 Judgment is the Lord’s

Judging others—even if criticism is justified—is a bad habit to get into. Jesus often called those who judged others (rather than themselves) hypocrites, a word that in Greek meant actors or pretenders. Pope Francis says, “I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. [But] the Lord’s most powerful message is mercy.” You’ve been misjudged. You know how it hurts. So why cause others pain?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Matthew 7:1-5 (371)*. “As you judge, so will you be judged.”

TUESDAY, JUNE 21 FEAST OF ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, RELIGIOUS Choose harmony

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga lived through violent times in Renaissance Italy. Wars were frequent, and he witnessed the murders of two of his brothers. It was assumed he would become a soldier and later a marquis like his father. But Aloysius chose to heal instead of maim, renounced his sizable inheritance, and became a Jesuit priest. In poor health himself, he administered to the sick until illness claimed him, too. In today’s troubled times, you are faced with the same choice as Aloysius—are you contributing to harmony or discord?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Kings 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Matthew 7:6, 12-14 (372)*. “How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.”

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 FEAST OF JOHN FISHER, BISHOP, AND THOMAS MORE, MARTYRS Standing together for religious freedom

Today we celebrate the feasts of two great saints and martyrs: Saint Thomas More, chancellor of England, and Saint John Fisher,

bishop of Rochester. They were martyred within two weeks of each other by King Henry VIII (who had been a good friend to both) for defending the sanctity of marriage and papal authority. They were beatified together by Pope Leo XIII in 1886 and canonized together by Pius XI in 1935. It is very hard to uphold and defend our moral values. May these two saints be our models and heroes when our integrity is threatened.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Matthew 7:15-20 (373)*. “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.”

THURSDAY, JUNE 23 Old Testament, in short

God makes the world good. People prefer their own way. Sin and pain enter the story. Brother kills brother. Rains fall, waters rise. We start again. Nations scatter and fortify. God befriends Abraham. Abraham’s kin move to Egypt and are enslaved. Rescued by Moses, Israelites receive God’s laws and enter Canaan. We start again. Judges rule. Kings take the throne. Jerusalem becomes God’s city. A temple to God is built there. Babylon destroys Jerusalem, the temple, and the kingship. Israel is exiled to Babylon, then released. We start again. Always, always, God’s people must start again.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Kings 24:8-17; Matthew 7:21-29 (374)*. “[Nebuchadnezzar] carried off all the treasures of the temple . . . and deported all Jerusalem.”

FRIDAY, JUNE 24 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST Who is your saint?

Unlike many images of Jesus and the saints, John the Baptist is not portrayed in pastels, gazing heavenward. He is the wild man, driven to announce the coming Kingdom. Many scholars believe that Jesus may have been a disciple of John, and when John was martyred, Jesus himself took up the message—an intense mission, but not a joyless one. One film shows John with Jesus after his Baptism, standing in the Jordan, dripping and embracing, almost giddy at what God was doing with them. Do you have a saint to whom you can draw close, to help you laugh at yourself, someone you can learn from?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Day: Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80 (587)*. “It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant . . . I will make you a light to the nations.”

SATURDAY, JUNE 25 Only say the word

In 2011, the revised *Roman Missal* (the U.S. translation of the Mass) underwent a number of changes. One of the more noticeable changes was in the Eucharistic Prayer: “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you . . .” became “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof . . .” The new wording echoes the gospel story of Jesus healing the centurion’s servant from a distance. It was Christ’s word and the centurion’s faith that healed. Perhaps as we participate in the Mass these words are a good reminder that the words we use are powerful—filled with faith and capable of miracles.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Matthew 8:5-17 (376)*. “Jesus said to the centurion, ‘You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.’”



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

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