

Sunday, Nov 17, 2019

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Love this world—lightly

Visit the Great Wall of China. Marvel at the Coliseum in Rome. Pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Walk like an Egyptian in the shadow of the Great Sphinx of Giza. Thrill to an adventure in search of Mayan temples in the Yucatan. What you discover at each of these astonishing sites are the ruins of former kingdoms and lost greatness. Such structures are mysterious and compelling, awe-inspiring and a little sad. As the church year winds down and our readings turn apocalyptic, we're reminded that only three things last: faith, hope, and love. Invest in these!

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:19-20a; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19 (159). *"The days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone."*

Monday, Nov 18, 2019

MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

If at first you don't succeed

As a child in France, Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852) watched her mother care for the poor and heard travelers tell stories of the "New World." It's not impossible to think that when Rose joined the sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart, she had hopes of serving the poor in faraway lands. In 1818, after years of teaching in France, Rose and four other sisters were sent to answer a bishop's request for assistance in his vast Louisiana territory. From New Orleans, the sisters were missioned to Missouri to establish schools. By the time Rose got to Sugar Creek, Kansas in 1841 to open a school for Potawatomic girls, she was 72 and her primary ministry became one of prayer. Indeed, the people she served called her the "woman who prays always." Saint Rose, help us imitate your perseverance and care for the poor.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497). *"I want to see."*

Tuesday, Nov 19, 2019

Man up!

Some say it's a man's world, but it isn't. It belongs to God. However, today is International Men's Day. It's part of "Movember," when men grow a "mo" (mustache) to draw attention to male health issues, including emotional health. For men, the Good News offers an invitation to heal the emotional wounds of the past; address anger, violence, and abusive domination; deal with relationship dysfunction and grow into wholesome, kind, and holy individuals. Today join with men everywhere to welcome the Son of Man who came to save us all.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498). *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."*

Wednesday, Nov 20, 2019

Be mindful of your daily bread

Why do religious traditions usually include dietary laws or restrictions, as well as periods of fasting and abstinence? Perhaps it has something to do with remembering "who we are." Nothing is more ordinary and everyday than eating (although for many in the world, sadly, it can be a struggle to find anything to eat). Alongside the church's guidelines on fasting and abstinence during the Lenten season, look for a way every week to

incorporate some dietary practice of your own choosing that helps you remember your relationship of dependence on the Creator for your nourishment—both physical and spiritual.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499).

"[They] were arrested and tortured . . . to force them to eat pork in violation of God's law."

Thursday, Nov 21, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

From generation to generation

Today we celebrate the Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a moment to recognize Mary's great faith and its link to her parents' deep faith. Church tradition has it that Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, brought her to the temple at age 3 to be dedicated to God. This acknowledgement that faith is passed from one generation to the next is something many modern Catholics also understand. Is that true for you? Consider thanking a family member who inspires and encourages your faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500). *"If this day you only knew what makes for peace."*

Friday, Nov 22, 2019

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Cecilia, you're breaking my heart

Saint Cecilia, patron of musicians, has been inspiring artists and seekers for centuries—from the Baroque composer Handel to today's music and songwriting legend Paul Simon. Saint Cecilia's association with music comes from a story recounting how her heart overflowed in song to God, even during a particularly difficult time in her life. What a witness to the power of love! In "Anthem for Saint Cecilia's Day," poet W.H. Auden calls upon Saint Cecilia with the words: *"Blessed Cecilia, appear in visions / To all musicians, appear and inspire: / Translated Daughter, come down and startle / Composing mortals with immortal fire."* What endeavor in your life are you being inspired to "compose" with "immortal fire"?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501). *"On that very day the sanctuary was reconsecrated with songs, harps, flutes, and cymbals."*

Saturday, Nov 23, 2019

BLESSED MIGUEL AGUSTIN PRO, PRIEST, MARTYR; BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A drama of faith

The Sadducees, who say there is no Resurrection" wouldn't have known what to do with Blessed Miguel Pro. During a period of harsh persecution of the Catholic Church in Mexico in the 1920s, this Jesuit disguised himself cleverly (as a cop, for instance, bringing Eucharist to prisoners in jail). His underground ministry evoked the irreverent humor and daring he'd exhibited since childhood. Falsely accused of a plot to murder the president and denied a trial, he was shot by a firing squad. After forgiving his captors on the way to his execution, he stretched out his arms, Christlike, and voiced the slogan of the Catholic resistance, *Viva Cristo Rey!* ("Long live Christ the King!") Photos of his execution rallied the resistance. How does his courageous witness inspire you?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502). *"God not of the dead, but of the living; for to [God] all . . . are alive."*

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



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