

Sunday, Nov 15, 2020

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Believe in magic—your own!

We each have a little something special we can call our own. Maybe it's school smarts or street smarts. Maybe you know your way around the halls of power or around the kitchen. Some are good with kids, others with elders, still others with sick or dying people. You might be great with people, or math, or words, or research. You could be physically strong or have that dogged ability to keep at a task when everybody else gives up. Do an assessment of your gifts and skills. Whatever your special magic is, put it at the disposal of grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30 ([157](#)). *"Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more."*

Monday, Nov 16, 2020

MEMORIAL OF GERTRUDE THE GREAT, VIRGIN

Mystic mysteries

Me, a mystic? Yes, you! Intimate union with Christ is called "mystical" because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments, the catechism says, and "God calls all of us to this intimate union with him . . ." But, you may be thinking, I don't have visions or experiences of ecstasy, and I definitely don't have stigmata, like a saint we remember today, Gertrude the Great, German Benedictine mystic of the 13th century. No matter, the catechism says, "The special graces or extraordinary signs of this mystical life are granted only to some for the sake of manifesting the gratuitous gift to all." Enjoy your slice of the mystery.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Luke 18:35-43 ([497](#)). *"Have sight; your faith has saved you."*

Tuesday, Nov 17, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS

Love the one you're with

As a young queen, Elizabeth of Hungary was so moved by the love of Saint Francis of Assisi that she took care of the sick and poor herself, tending to them like a servant in her own castle. Equally notable, though, is the loving relationship Elizabeth had with her husband, King Louis of Thuringia. Growing up together, their mutual affection was exceptionally deep as friends and confidants—long before they married and became parents. Most notably, they championed each other in the practice of their Christian faith. Today, pray gratefully for loved ones who have nurtured your own faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22; Luke 19:1-10 ([498](#)). *"Half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor."*

Wednesday, Nov 18, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, VIRGIN

Pray always

One of Rose Philippine Duchesne's (1769-1852) biographers noted that she was born with a strong and dauntless will. She ignored family wishes and joined a French convent, intent on ministry to Native American peoples. Not until the age of 49 did she set sail for St. Louis, where her ministry of opening schools and orphanages remained much the same as in her native France. After many years of ministry, at the age of 72 Rose was asked to live among the Potawatomi Indians in Sugar Creek, Kansas. It

was a short-lived assignment—her health was failing—yet Rose's ministry of prayer was recognized by the Potawatomi, who called her Woman-Who-Prays-Always. The witness of Saint Rose reminds us that where there is a will—our own and God's—there is a way. Ask for the grace today to seek and embrace God's will.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 4:1-11; Luke 19:11-28 ([499](#)) or for the Dedication, Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Matthew 14:22-33 ([679](#)). *"Sir, your gold coin has earned ten additional ones. ' He replied, 'Well done, good servant!'"*

Thursday, Nov 19, 2020

The Omega point

These days Catholic laity and leaders don't typically dwell on the so-called "end times." Modern Catholics tend to be engaged in questions of how to live here and now for the common good and our personal salvation. Pope Francis frequently urges us on in righteous living. That is the context as our year moves toward its own "end times." The year 2020 has been hard around the world. We can hope and pray that 2021 will be gentler and promote that outcome in our own interactions with others in this contentious age. Put your trust in God, the Alpha and Omega.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 5:1-10; Luke 19:41-44 ([500](#)). *"[Jesus] saw the city and wept over it, saying, 'If this day you only knew what makes for peace . . .'"*

Friday, Nov 20, 2020

Feed the children

Today is World Children's Day. It marks the anniversary of the 1959 signing of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. A fundamental right of every child is to live and grow. But a 2018 study by UNICEF found that more than 3 million children in the world die from malnutrition every year. Some people ask why God allows this to happen. But that misses the point. God commands us to feed the hungry, and Catholics have a serious obligation to do just that. Log on to Catholic Relief Services (CRS.org) and find out how you can help feed the starving children of the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 10:8-11; Luke 19:45-48 ([501](#)). *"Yes, your decrees are my delight; they are my counselors."*

Saturday, Nov 21, 2020

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Your presence is requested

Celebration of Mary's presentation at the temple—a story from time-honored tradition rather than directly from scripture—took place as early as the sixth century in Jerusalem. The Eastern Church ran with it right away, but the West was slow to follow. At times the feast seemed to disappear entirely from the calendar, but finally in the 16th century it took its place as a universal feast. Though the feast points to Mary's lifetime of preparation for her sacred role in salvation, it also invites each of us to ponder for a moment: Suppose Jesus came knocking right now to bring you to the heavenly temple. Would you be prepared? If you feel a bit sloppy or unkempt, spiritually speaking, now is a great chance to do what is necessary to become a bit more presentable!

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 11:4-12; Luke 20:27-40 ([502](#)). *"Then they heard a loud voice from heaven say to them, 'Come up here . . .'"*

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



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