

Sunday, Nov 01, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Get in the ring

Catholic activist Mary “Mother” Jones famously urged: “Pray for the dead—and fight like hell for the living.” She did both, especially fighting for miner’s rights and against child labor at the turn of the 20th century. Called the “most dangerous woman in America” for her clout with the laboring class, she spoke for those who weren’t heard. Mother Jones won’t ever be a saint on the books, but she did as saints do: listened carefully to the concerns of her times, then went in punching for the needs of the oppressed. Who needs your voice—and maybe your boxing skills?

TODAY’S READINGS: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a (667). *“They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

Monday, Nov 02, 2020

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS’ DAY)

It is well with my soul

This year, as we mourn the scores of those in our country and around the world who are dead from the pandemic, All Souls’ Day has a uniquely terrible gravity. We are not only grieving the loss of so many human lives but also the loss of what our lives were like before, and we are doing it without the same emotional support we might have had in physically closer times. Today is an opportunity to pray and remember, and acknowledge the deep sadness that is so important to the healing process. Invite the God of hope to wipe away your tears.

TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40 (668). *“Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life.”*

Tuesday, Nov 03, 2020

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS

Create healing and harmony

After the summer we’ve had, Martin de Porres is the perfect intercessor for the United States today, on Election Day. This famously humble Dominican friar, born of poverty and mixed racial background, is the patron saint of race relations and social justice. Plus, he trained as a doctor to hide an ability to perform miraculous cures. Ask for his help and healing to end our time of pandemic and social division. And ask to have a heart like his: “Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden, and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.”

TODAY’S READINGS: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 14:15-24 (486). *“Bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.”*

Wednesday, Nov 04, 2020

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES BORROMEO, BISHOP

Be bread for the world

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, bishops dispensed Catholics from their Sunday obligation to attend Mass. While there were worries about the future of the Eucharist, some leaders found ways for parishioners to be the church in the world, helping the needy, feeding the hungry, and even doing such things as sending baked goods to local hospitals. During the plague of 1576, Cardinal Charles Borromeo took to the streets of Milan to feed the hungry, going into personal debt to do so. Patron saint of

cardinals, seminarians, and catechists, Saint Charles pray for us until the day when it is safe for all to gather again to share in the Eucharist.

TODAY’S READINGS: Philippians 2:12-18; Luke 14:25-33 (487).

“Every one of you who does not renounce all . . . possessions cannot be my disciple.”

Thursday, Nov 05, 2020

Keep the conversation going

Have you ever had to rethink your life? Vocation is an ongoing conversation between you and God about how best to use your gifts, and sometimes a “reset” is necessary. Saint Paul refers to the years he spent persecuting the church as a loss in today’s first reading. He thought he was doing the right thing when he pushed to have Christians flogged. But he listened to God through dramatic events in his life and discerned that his calling was to join the Christians, eventually becoming their lead evangelizer.

Keep the conversation between you and God going!

TODAY’S READINGS: Philippians 3:3-8a; Luke 15:1-10 (488). *“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people.”*

Friday, Nov 06, 2020

No more scarring the Earth

Today marks the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War. Just as human life is impacted and threatened by war, so too is our Earth. In 2003, the archbishop of Dublin spoke with the U.S. bishops on today’s challenge of peace, saying: “The pursuit of peace—lasting peace based on justice—ought to be an environmental priority because the Earth itself bears the wounds and scars of war.” The bishops call the church to “help build bridges among the peace, justice, and environmental agendas and constituencies.” How can we do this in our own neighborhoods? How can we avoid war and bring justice and peace to the local environment in which we live?

TODAY’S READINGS: Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 16:1-8 (489).

“Prepare a full account of your stewardship.”

Saturday, Nov 07, 2020

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Dare to love

In his papal letter “The Joy of Love,” Pope Francis speaks of the “tender gaze” with which Jesus looks on all. He might have learned this from Mary. In marriage, spouses learn to look at each other this tenderly, marveling at goodness even when youth and attractiveness fade, as Francis notes. Negotiating conflicts, seeing challenges as resolvable, and appreciating the “large nest” of extended family must have been skills Jesus gained by spending most of his life in such a setting. The pope suggests turning off mobile devices, creating conversation around the dining table. Can you and your loved ones take the challenge?

TODAY’S READINGS: Philippians 4:10-19; Luke 16:9-15 (490). *“The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.”*

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



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