



SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Along for the ride

When you choose to follow God, amazing things can happen. The journey, though, takes faith. It requires listening and surrender; it means recognizing you're not in charge. You follow in the footsteps of a God who leads. Moments of transfiguration give guidance, while sacrifice challenges and fosters trust along the way. Life isn't a journey straight to the top. You can find yourself led to the highest of heights by the most unusual of paths. Being able to honestly declare, "Here I am, Lord," you give God the liberty to take you higher than you ever imagined possible.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26)*. "He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white."

MONDAY, MARCH 2 LENTEN WEEKDAY
Gift that keeps on giving

Jesus said: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." A version of this Golden Rule exists in all the major world religions—Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism—and the ethical idea dates back to antiquity in Babylon, Greece, China, Egypt, India. In psychology, it is the healthy ability to empathize, necessary to experience compassion—a truly universal rule that each person is required to universally apply. And the more it's practiced by you, the more it might be practiced toward you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230)*. "For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
FEAST OF KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER; LENTEN WEEKDAY
The leader of the pack

Her family called her Kate. In girlhood she felt a vocation to the church but balked at obedience. She just couldn't take orders from a superior who might be "stupid," she told her spiritual director frankly. Also, life would be dreary if the community consisted of a bunch of "old maidish dispositions." Kate concluded religious life wasn't for her: "I hate never to be alone." The solution was simple. Katharine started her own vigorously active order with a rich contemplative lifestyle, hand-selecting the women she would lead. Follow wise leaders—or become one yourself.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231)*. "Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Let an exam of conscience be your guide

Today is the first day of a novena in honor of Saint Francis Xavier, co-founder of the Jesuits. The novena is modeled on the Spiritual Exercises, and each day includes a focus on your relationship with God as it is *really* lived. For example, on Day 6, you are encouraged to make an examination of conscience, asking which thoughts, words, and actions that day you are most proud of and which you regret. Each day, an important tradition is stressed, but always focusing on the life and healing power of Francis Xavier. You can do this without a novena, but this devotion might jump start a deeper life of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232)*. "Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Growing tips for faith

Trees figure prominently in the Bible and often serve as symbols of our faith. Those who first heard the words of scripture—being people living on the edge of the desert—were quite aware of the special care trees require to grow strong and bear fruit: Droughts and floods, weeds and critters, and even the occasional curse from an angry messiah can kill a tree in short order. Care for your faith as you would a sapling. Weed and water and protect it against the elements. And be mindful of the seeds of faith you plant in others.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233)*. "He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream."

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Let us pray

Today's World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement begun in the 19th century by Christian women so that they may "meet and pray with each other and [be] reminded to live a reconciling and forgiving life with others. . . . Anyone who wishes to join this movement makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a strained relationship with another person and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence, and injustice." This offers a focused and practical way of holding yourself to faith "in deed and not only in word." Find out more at www.wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/history-prayer/.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234)*. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 FEAST OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS
A diary dear to all believers

In the third century, Felicity and Perpetua were imprisoned in Carthage because of their faith. While there, Perpetua kept a diary. It is one of only a few extant works written by martyrs in the early church who were women. The account conveys Perpetua's deep trust that the Spirit had not abandoned her and Felicity, but offered strength in the face of hardship and death. The story is part of the long Christian narrative about our God—always present, with us in all circumstances. Pray today with Felicity and Perpetua, reflecting on God's faithfulness in your life.

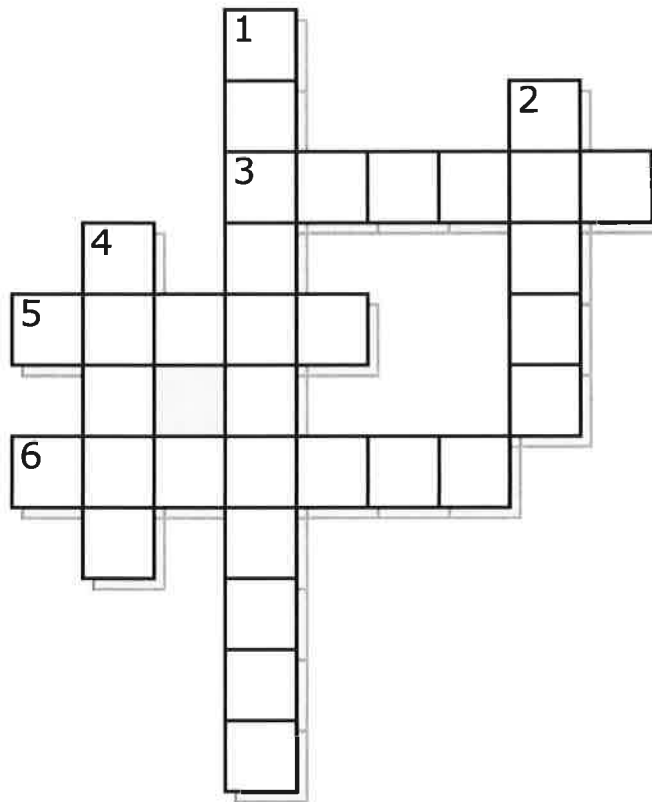
TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235)*. "You will show faithfulness to Jacob, and grace to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from days of old."



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

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CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities - Mark 9:2-10



Across

- 3) Moses and _____ appeared before them conversing with Jesus
- 5) Peter suggested making three ____ on the site
- 6) Peter, James and John heard the voice of God saying, "This is my _____ son, listen to him."

Down

- 1) "So they kept the matter to themselves, _____ what rising from the dead meant."
- 2) "_____, it is good that we are here!"
- 4) Jesus took James, John and _____ up a high mountain.