

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

Let us break bread together

One person can make a difference—perhaps even change the liturgical calendar the Catholic Church follows in celebrating important traditions. The feast of Corpus Christi (literally, the body of Christ) was added to the calendar largely due to a 40-year campaign by a 13th-century religious woman, Juliana of Liège, who had a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and worked to see a feast day devoted to it. Little by little the idea gained popularity and acceptance and is now celebrated worldwide. Today or the next time you attend Mass, remember Juliana and her efforts during the Eucharistic Prayers.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:11-15; Lauda, Sion, Salvatorum; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26 (168)*. "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"



MONDAY, JUNE 8

Got cheer?

How many e-mails do you receive and send every day? Now consider: How many of them contain encouragements? To encourage means to lend courage with words and aid. Saint Paul often began his letters by building up his friends with praise, blessings, and moral support. While many of us are quick to criticize, we may be slow to offer support, praise, or thanks. Courage, often called fortitude, is one of the four cardinal virtues, along with prudence, justice, and temperance. Offer a kind and encouraging word to everyone you meet today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 1:1-7; Matthew 5:1-12 (359)*. "Blessed be God . . . who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage."

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

FEAST OF EPHREM OF SYRIA, DEACON, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Take it easy

Ours is a culture of access and excess. We have a lot, and we're used to indulging ourselves at the table, shopping mall, gabfest, and every other trough where addiction feeds. Guys like Ephrem the Syrian can seem alien to us. Not quite a monk but rather "a son of the covenant," Ephrem chose to live in abstinence and celibacy within the community of faith. He could have taken more but he settled for less. Out of that sufficiency he wrote hymns, poems, and theology. Temperance, the lifestyle of deliberate moderation, is one cardinal virtue that doesn't go out of style.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Matthew 5:13-16 (360)*. "You are the light of the world."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Do the right thing

Some of us make the mistake of viewing Christianity as the "easy" religion: "Whatever you do, God will forgive you." Well, yes and no. Forgiveness isn't the same as immunity from all consequences. Contrition, a lively regret for our wrongdoing, is one aspect of repentance, as is restitution, the act of making good what's lost by our sinfulness. Sometimes that means working hard to restore

relationships. Other times it means monetary restoration. Justice, one of four cardinal virtues, involves giving what's due to God and our neighbor, restoring the balance of what's right.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 3:4-11; Matthew 5:17-19 (361)*. "I have come not to abolish [the law] but to fulfill [it]."

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Redeem this virtue!

Somehow prudence, the fourth cardinal virtue, has gotten a bad rep. We reduce it to prudishness, a kind of spoil-sport or party-pooper personality. Yet Proverbs describes prudence as being sensible: "The prudent one looks where he is going." And the First Letter of Peter calls it keeping "sane and sober" in order to approach the work of prayer more meaningfully. Thomas Aquinas defined this virtue as "right reason in action," involving the activity of the conscience. Exercise prudence before you speak or act by pausing to consider how the greatest good can be achieved.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Matthew 5:20-26 (580/362)*. "Then [Barnabas] went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch."

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS Have a heart

Over the centuries, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus arose as a way of symbolizing and embodying the great compassion Jesus displayed throughout his ministry. One of the ways this devotion can be practiced is by entrusting your household to the care of the Sacred Heart with an image that has been blessed, a statue or picture of the Sacred Heart for example, serving as a reminder to live compassionately. The practice is rooted in Pope Pius XII's declaration in 1956 that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is "the foundation on which to build the kingdom of God in the hearts of individuals, families, and nations."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9; Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19; John 19:31-37 (171)*. "One soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out."

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

FEAST OF ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Lost is found

Saint Anthony shows how faith can help us keep our bearings when life takes unexpected turns. A 13th-century Franciscan, Anthony sailed on mission to Africa only to have illness force his return. En route to Spain, his ship was blown off course, landing in Italy. In poor health, Anthony settled in a hermitage near the friars. One day they approached Anthony just before an important ceremony, asking him to give a homily when they realized nobody had prepared one. Anthony's powerful preaching reflected the faith that had carried him through all circumstances. When life takes an unexpected direction, invite Anthony to journey with you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Matthew 5:33-37 (364)*. "So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."

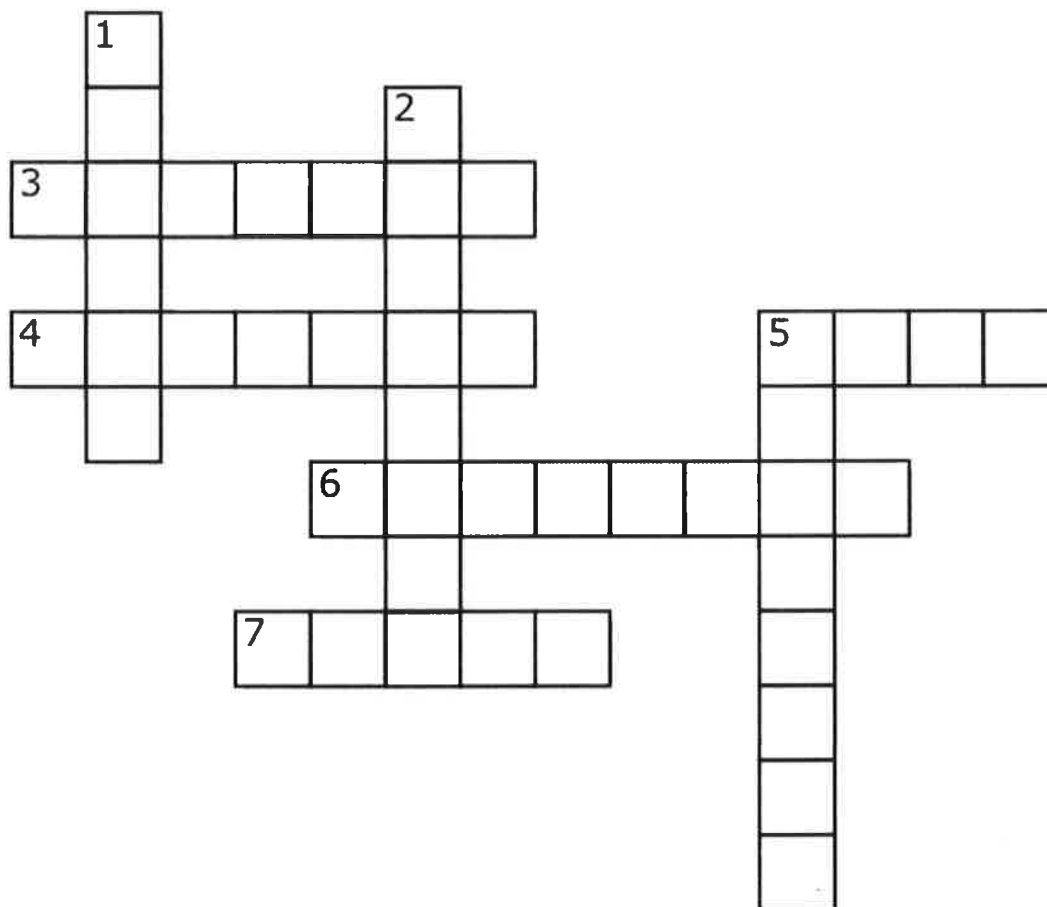


Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26



Across

- 3) "I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the _____ of God."
- 4) "The _____ says, 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'"
- 5) "Take it; this is my _____."
- 6) Jesus disciples asked him where he wanted to eat the _____ feast.
- 7) "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of _____."

Down

- 1) They went out to the Mount of _____.
- 2) "This is my blood of the _____"
- 5) While they were eating, he took bread and said a _____.