



**SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015 SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**  
**Sing a new song**

A “sequence” is part of the Liturgy of the Word, sung before the gospel on the greatest feasts in the year. However, it seems to be hardly ever sung anymore. Does it “prolong” the liturgy? Why not celebrate the gift of God’s Spirit today and discover yourself embraced by God’s Spirit in one of these thrilling manifestations: *Come, Holy Spirit. Come, father of the poor, giver of gifts, light of the heart. Greatest comforter; sweet guest of the soul, sweet consolation. In labor, rest, in heat, temperance, in tears, solace. Cleanse what is unclean, water that which is dry, heal that which is wounded. Bend that which is inflexible, fire that which is chilled, correct what goes astray. Grant eternal joy.*

TODAY’S READINGS: *Day: Acts 2:1-11; Galatians 5:16-25 or 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; Sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus; John 20:19-23 (63). “He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”*

**MONDAY, MAY 25**  
**FEAST OF BEDE THE VENERABLE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**  
**So many books, so little time**

You know the drill: You buy the book, then never read it. It gathers dust and remorse the longer it sits on the shelf. Your intentions were sincere, but time always seems short, energy scarce. It’s much easier to watch television or surf the internet than to give yourself to the pursuit of learning! The Venerable Bede made the time: for learning languages, studying scripture, pouring over histories, and becoming truly wise. Today we begin a week of reading Sirach, a compilation of acquired wisdom. Turn off the media and find three wise sayings in Sirach meant for you.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Sirach 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27 (347). “No more can the dead give praise than those who have never lived.”*

**TUESDAY, MAY 26 FEAST OF PHILIP NERI, PRIEST**  
**Let your life be your sermon**

Philip Neri was a popular spiritual advisor and confessor. But this “saint of Rome” who lived during the Council of Trent also was criticized by some for allowing laymen to preach and for using hymns written in the language of the people. History is a great teacher that in this case reminds us that a saint of the church recognized the richness of faith within the laity of his day and encouraged the use of everyday language in the singing of hymns. Say a prayer of gratitude today for the faith that is yours alone to preach by the way in which you live.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31 (348). “But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first.”*



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

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27**

**FEAST OF AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY**

**The original Canterbury tale**

Imagine being uprooted from a monastic life and told to march across medieval Europe to Christianize a far-flung kingdom with unknown gods. This was the task given to Augustine of Canterbury, a Benedictine monk who became the first archbishop of Canterbury and a founder of the English church in the year 597. We would not be talking about Augustine today had he listened to the men in his mission who, seeing the task before them, urged Augustine to turn back and cancel the undertaking soon after it began. Encouraged by Pope Gregory the Great, Augustine and the men persevered and succeeded. If we stay the course through the difficult times, our mission of faith—large or small—can and will be completed. Hang in there!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Mark 10:32-45 (349). “Come to our aid, O God of the universe, look upon us, show us the light of your mercies.”*

**THURSDAY, MAY 28**

**Let failings lead you to faith**

Many of us find it difficult to ask for help. We would much rather give than be vulnerable enough to receive. While faith tells us that God is in charge, we so often forget and live as if we are in control of our lives. Then something stops us in our tracks: a disappointment, a diagnosis, a failure, or a death. And in that moment pride is revealed for the false god that it is and we cry out, “Master, help me see.” Write a note of gratitude to someone whose “strength has been revealed in weakness.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Sirach 42:15-25; Mark 10:46-52 (350). “Many rebuked him telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more.”*

**FRIDAY, MAY 29**

**A prayer for the ages**

Shrines, home altars, burial grounds, memorial services—these are all common ways people honor their ancestors. For Christians, we have the Litany of Saints, one of the oldest prayers in Christianity, where we call to mind the holy men and women in our salvation history. The litany is most often sung at Easter Vigil Mass and All Saints Day, but many of us also pray modified litanies each night calling out the names of our own special circle of saints: God bless Mom, God bless Dad . . . Remembering the goodness and faithfulness of living and departed holy men and women is the first step in paying our respects. To ensure a lasting legacy, we must follow their examples of radical love.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Sirach 44:1, 9-13; Mark 11:11-26 (351). “Now will I praise those godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time.”*

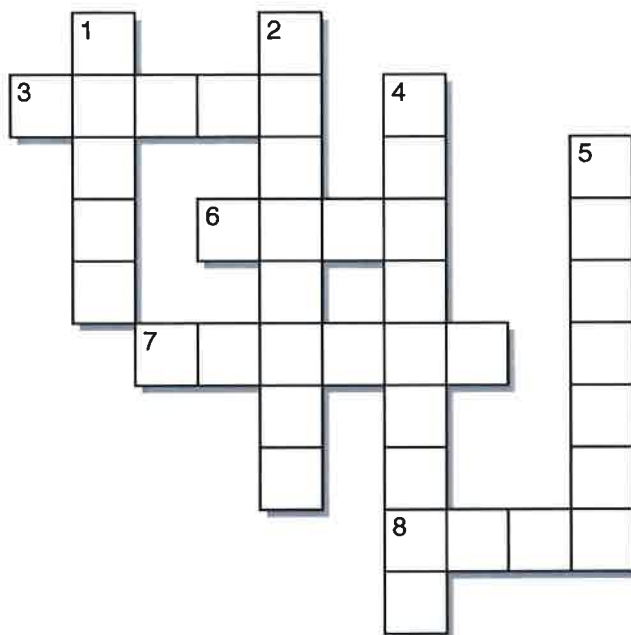
**SATURDAY, MAY 30 FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**She just keeps showing up**

Some people put great faith in the apparitions of Mary—those times throughout history when the Mother of Jesus has been reported to appear, speak, and sometimes perform a miraculous sign. The church officially makes belief in Marian apparitions a matter of decision, not doctrine. Still, as one Protestant believer has phrased it, whether you credit these visions or not, what do you make of the idea that folks throughout history and around the world keep seeing her? Mary speaks to our longing for a personal encounter with the sacred. She had one. We’re all invited to be Christ-bearers.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Sirach 51:12c-20; Mark 11:27-33 (352). “When I was young and innocent, I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.”*

## CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity - John 20:19-23



### Across

3. Jesus said to the disciples, " \_\_\_\_\_ be with you."
6. This Sunday, we read from the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. In the Gospel, we read that the disciples had \_\_\_\_\_ the doors because they were afraid
8. Jesus showed the disciples his hands and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. \_\_\_\_\_ came and stood in the midst of the disciples.
2. When they saw Jesus, the disciples \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Today, we celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday.
5. "Whose sins you \_\_\_\_\_ are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."