



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015** FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**This treasure is for everyone**

We believe that Jesus' teaching authority, which astonished his hearers, continues through apostolic succession to each new generation of believers. As Catholic writer Alice Camille put it, "I know that there's little in my life of faith that doesn't come to me directly or indirectly as a result of 20 centuries of magisterial collaboration between the church's leadership and faithful membership." The deposit of faith is our treasure. Let's not bury it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28 (71)*. "All were amazed and asked one another, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority.'"

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD; WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE  
**Tamales, anyone?**

You may think the holiday season ended weeks ago but, at least in Mexico, one more exclamation point is added to the season today. Back on January 6, Feast of the Epiphany—known in Mexico as Día de los Reyes or "Three Kings Day"—Mexicans cut into cakes shaped like crowns. Small replicas of the infant child are baked into the cakes and those who receive a cut of cake with a baby Jesus are tasked with providing tamales and a corn-based drink called *atole* for a party today in honor of his presentation at the temple. Join the tamale tradition and offer one last farewell to the joyous season. You can also raise a toast today to World Day for Consecrated Life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (52A)*. "Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord."

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3** FEAST OF BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR  
**Protect creatures great and small**

This saint's reputation is based on the story of his healing a boy choking on a fish bone. But Blaise also healed animals. Legend has it that wild animals came to him for his blessing. Catholics share a responsibility as stewards of creation, including for animals wild and domesticated. To celebrate today, after having your throat blessed, find out how you might support efforts to protect wildlife where you live. Remember that even a bird feeder can help God's creatures survive a bitter winter.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43 (32A)*. "The child is not dead but asleep."

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
**My other friend is a tree**

Joyce Kilmer taught many of us to see the poetry in trees. Robert Frost famously invited us to be "swingers of birches," enjoying the same patient flexibility of tree branches bowing under a child's weight. Old-growth redwoods and sequoias dwarf our human lifetimes by a millennium. A tree on your street may mark each season more accurately than any calendar. And who doesn't love the year's most celebrated tree, O Tannenbaum? Today is the Jewish "New Year for Trees," *Tu B'Shvat*. Respect forests. Support the town green. Plant a tree.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6 (325)*. "When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished."

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

FEAST OF AGATHA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

**Be a witness to freedom from trafficking**

When facing challenges, we can turn to the saints for help. The church raises up women and men who are in solidarity with us, including saints who have experienced some of the same horrors that people today do. As we fight for people enslaved by human trafficking, we can look to saints like Saint Agatha who knew personally the violence of sexual assault. We can also look to saints among us, such as Catholic sisters and others who are leaders in the struggle against human trafficking. Check out [BakhitaInitiative.com](http://BakhitaInitiative.com) and see how you can join the saints and end human trafficking.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13 (326)*. "You have approached ... God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect."

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

FEAST OF PAUL MIKI, PRIEST, MARTYR, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

**Let goodness rain**

Brother Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, is the best known among the 26 martyrs who died in Japan in 1597. As he died on a hill in Nagasaki he said, "After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain." Indeed it did. Centuries later, missionaries returned to Japan to find thousands of Christians who had quietly preserved the faith underground until it was legalized. Let your life's work also be a fruitful rain, nourishing all with whom you come into contact.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29 (327)*. "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**Slow down, you're moving too fast**

Jesus would regularly withdraw from active ministry in order to be by himself in prayer. Jesus taking time off? Yes! This is one way in which ordinary people might imitate an important facet of Jesus' spirituality: the choice to slow down, to become quiet and still, and in such moments—brief as they may be—to bask in the presence of God's Spirit, which is always within to strengthen you. Jesus learned it from his mother, who is often remembered as "holding things in her heart"—contemplating, learning, deepening love.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34 (328)*. "His heart was moved with pity for them."



*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 1:21-28

O V D A M A Z E D W R F Q O S P I R I T  
J Q A X Q V Q V Q Q V E V Z X W Z W F F  
I J S X Y P O B E Y W F B Y H Q U I E T  
Y Z T X C X K V C M P C W U W R Z W M W  
J X O J O P Q X W V G V A W K Q W J F E  
C J N K N Q G A L I L E E P W E M Z G Q  
O X I X V W K X V X M F O Q E Q D Z B T  
M Z S W U W W W W Z R Z J O Q R Q X M Z  
M V H W L X J E S U S U X J A J N Q V Y  
A W E W S Q O O H R X N J X U W Q A D Y  
N Q D F E Q Q V J Y Q C P Z T J K D U Z  
D X D F D V Z D K P V L F Z H Q Q T W M  
S J R J Y F V Y Z Y V E W Q O S V E W R  
F H X D M Z O Q J W W A W K R A W A Q S  
Z O X B J R X V H B H N X J I B D C Q V  
X L J G T Z M Q G F M Q Q X T B W H Q J  
J Y M S S C R I B E S B T F Y A W I W D  
U W E Q X Q V Q Q W M Q M Z K T Q N F D  
Z D N A Z A R E T H L D X I Q H B G L Q  
S Y N A G O G U E G L Z G J Y K J V X Q

### Word Bank

Amazed, Astonished, Authority, Capernaum, Commands, Convulsed, Destroy, Galilee, Holy, Jesus, Nazareth, Obey, Quiet, Rebuked, Sabbath, Scribes, Spirit, Synagogue, Teaching, Unclean

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