



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Proceed with caution

In a bygone era you might hear religion teachers tell their students that every sin we commit is another nail in Jesus' side. Although today we might phrase things differently, in truth, Christians believe that Jesus suffers for our sins, and our failures to act with love have consequences far beyond our human understanding for which we will be held accountable. That is why scripture tells us to stay alert, and Christian philosophers advise caution. As French philosopher Blaise Pascal says in *Pensées*: "In each action we must look beyond the action at our past, present, and future state, and at others whom it affects, and see the relations of all those things."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13:24-32 (158)*. "As to the exact day and hour, no one knows it . . ."

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

FEAST OF MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Positive peer pressure

One of the best ways to teach kids how to behave is simply to model good behavior yourself. Although maybe not to the same degree, adults can be similarly influenced for the better. That's what Saint Margaret of Scotland did. She was a granddaughter, niece, wife, and mother to kings, but had no real political power herself. She prayed diligently, served the poor daily, raised eight children with Christian values (one of them became a saint), and basically lived a virtuous life. By doing these things, she made her country a better place and its rulers better people.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497)*. "Jesus told him, 'Have sight; your faith has saved you.'"

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 FEAST OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS

Picture this!

If you described your life of Christian service using images, what would they be? For Saint Elizabeth, the images of bread and roses are often used. Where did those come from? Elizabeth was born in 1207 into a royal family of wealth. She undertook many works to help people who suffered hunger, cold, and illness. So great were her works that some questioned how they were possible. There were rumors of theft from the royal resources. Once, as she was taking bread hidden under her cloak to feed the hungry, noblemen stopped her, demanding to know what she was hiding. But what they saw was not bread but roses!

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498)*. "So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

FEAST OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCESNE, VIRGIN

Fidelity in little things

Many folks find an inner hero in critical times that evaporates in daily affairs. Our habits are pitted with endless failures in generosity and welcome, gentle speech and simple kindness. Philippine Duchesne traveled from France in hopes of living the life of a courageous missionary. Instead she spent her years on a series of small and failing schools, dealing with trying bishops, traitorous spiritual directors, and rebellious sisters. This disappointing life of sandpaper polished her to the brilliance of sainthood. Be a hero in tiny tasks.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499)* or for the Memorial of the Dedication, *Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Matthew 14:22-33 (679)*. "Well done, good servant! You have been faithful in this very small matter; take charge of ten cities."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Ask for direction

The journal *Christianity Today* says, "Spiritual direction is a voluntary relationship between a person who seeks to grow in the Christian life and a director." It has been defined as the practice of being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with the divine and to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. Those in religious life and ministry are encouraged to have spiritual direction, but it is not just for "professionals." All of us have a spirituality of life, but sometimes we lose sight of our priorities. Spiritual Directors International (sdiworld.org) offers resources and a listing of spiritual directors by geographic area. Perhaps it is time to stop for directions!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500)*. "As Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Reach out

Sometimes the greatest transformation comes when you can open yourself up to another. That presence is at the heart of prayer. "Praying is no easy matter," Henri Nouwen wrote. "It demands a relationship in which you allow someone other than yourself to enter into the very center of your person, to see there what you would rather leave in darkness, and to touch there what you would rather leave untouched." God is waiting to enter into the heart of your being. Dare to reach out and be touched.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501)*. "My house shall be a house of prayer."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Move beyond the temple walls

According to legend, Anne and Joachim presented their daughter Mary, age 3, to temple authorities as a fulfillment of the promises made before Mary's having been born without sin, which we know as the Immaculate Conception. Blessed among women, Mary grew in age, wisdom, and grace throughout her life. The feast of her presentation marks a distinctive moment in her young life, a moment of sanctification. Given to God, she would go on to become a temple even greater than the one in which she was blessed. From her would come forth Christ. Today, we celebrate her sanctity and strive to be temples of the Holy Spirit ourselves.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502)*. "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."



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 - Mk 13:24-32

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Word Bank

Angels, Disciples, Earth, Fig, Generation, Glory, Heaven, Jesus, Lesson, Moon, Power, Powers, Stars, Trees, Tribulation