



ELIJAH AND THE PRIESTS OF BAAL, LUCAS CRANACH THE YOUNGER (CA. 1545)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2015

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A cup that runneth over

Is it possible that an Old Testament prophet founded a Catholic religious order? It may not have been his intention to, but yes. Elijah is considered by the Carmelites to be their spiritual founder. For all of his fieriness, Elijah was, like the Carmelites, contemplative. It was on Mount Carmel, where the order had its origins, that Elijah won a showdown with prophets of Baal, a deity worshipped in ancient Canaan and Phoenicia. In fact, according to Carmelite tradition, a community of hermits lived there from the time of Elijah until the order was formed. You never know what wondrous shape your spiritual heritage might take.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 17:10-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44 (155)*. "... the jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, as the Lord had foretold through Elijah."

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Open the door and look at all the people

The meaning of the word *church* is as rich as a death-by-chocolate dessert! It is the English translation of the Greek word *ecclesia* used 115 times in the New Testament, and it means the assembly, the people, the community of faith. We often use "the church," to mean the *magisterium*, the leadership. Or we say "What a beautiful church," meaning its architecture. Less frequently do we recall that *we* are the church, the people who gather and worship. For all its grandeur, the basilica of St. John Lateran is there to welcome God's people, as a house of prayer, safety, and hope.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671)*. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

FEAST OF LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Ordinarily great

Leo, a fifth-century pope, was the first to be called "Great." Why? First, he was an excellent administrator; he was also brilliant, named a Doctor of the church for establishing the nature of Christ as fully divine and fully human. His preaching could stir hearts to conversion. When Attila was about to sack Rome, it is said that Leo went out to meet him and dissuaded him from entering the city. Where does greatness lie? The most ordinary person—not a political powerhouse, a celebrated professor, soccer star, or pope—

can be called "great." Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount making that crystal clear: "Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Luke 17:7-10 (492)*. "The souls of the just are in the hand of God."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 FEAST OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP

Help those who are vetted

The son of a veteran, Martin was forced at the age of 15 to serve in the army. When he became a Christian at 18, he began to struggle as a soldier with the call of the King of Peace. Today, consider the soldier who defends you, but also the veteran, the conscientious objector, the wounded, many of whom struggle to find Jesus while defending a homeland. We have seen the effects of the stresses they have endured because of war. Can you help? Can you volunteer at a veterans' hospital? Can you work for peace?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19 (493)*. "Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 FEAST OF JOSAPHAT, BISHOP, MARTYR

Wisdom from the East

Let's face it. Few Roman Catholics think of the Eastern Church as much more than a distant, dignified, and charming aunt with quaint manners and haunting music, who prays everything three times over! Yet Josaphat gave his life that the Ruthenian (Byzantine) Church remain united with Rome. Pope John Paul II wrote: "Since, in fact, we believe that the venerable and ancient tradition of the Eastern Churches is an integral part of the heritage of Christ's Church, the first need for Catholics is to be familiar with that tradition, so as to be nourished by it and to encourage the process of unity in the best way possible for each."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 7:22b-8:1; Luke 17:20-25 (494)*. "... behold, the Kingdom of God is among you."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 FEAST OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, VIRGIN

Smile if you believe the gospel

Pope Francis frequently notes that religious-minded people should have happy faces. In the 19th century, Mother Cabrini modeled this idea with her community of Sacred Heart Sisters. She herself was denied entrance to religious life because of fragile health. When she began her own order, her admission criteria was different: She wanted frank, dynamic women with bright, smiling faces. Workhorse stamina optional. Despite poor health, Cabrini moved mountains in her 67 years. A joyful attitude will get us through tough times better than muscle.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495)*. "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Hanging in there with Mary

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a model of love, care, prayerfulness—and great perseverance! From urging Jesus to help the hosts of the wedding feast at Cana who had run out of wine, to following Jesus despite risks and threats of harm, Mary persevered. Even when standing at the foot of the cross where her son was crucified, Mary showed steadfast faith in God. No doubt she at times felt afraid and grew tired, yet she continued on. As we continually deepen our own faith in God, may we know that we have a constant companion in Mary.

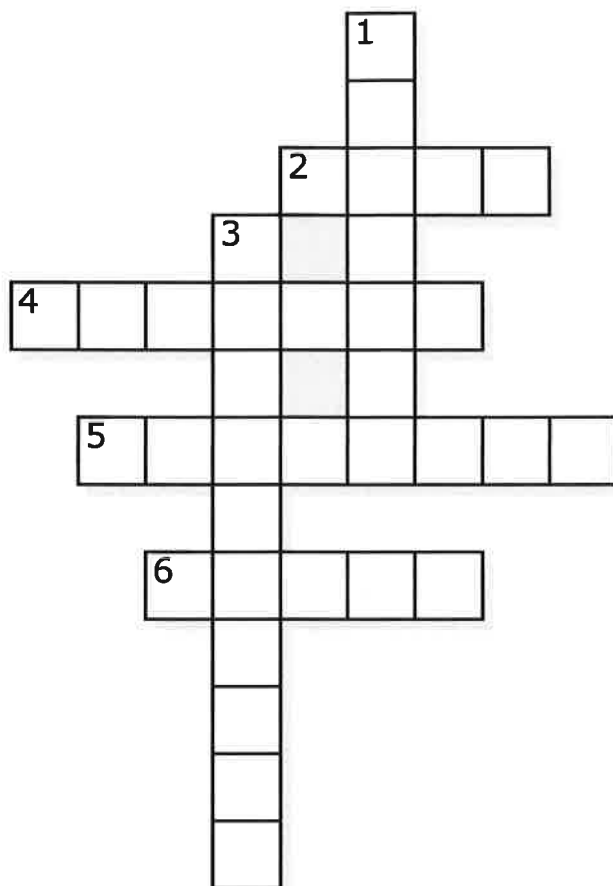
TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 18:14-1; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8 (496)*. "... when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"



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 12:38-44



Across

- 2) This week, we read from the Gospel according to _____.
- 4) Jesus said to the crowds, "Beware of the _____"
- 5) Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the _____.
- 6) "Amen, I say to you, this poor _____ put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury."

Down

- 1) "They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy _____."
- 3) "She, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole _____."