



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
Evoke a vocation

When we pray for “vocations” we still seem to mean a call to religious life or to ministry. We don’t pray for an increase in vocations to married life (though praying for thoughtful and faith-filled marriages is not a bad thing at all!). Are we praying that God will *persuade* people (other people!) to take up church ministry? Does not God already love the church and each person more than we can ask or imagine? What then do we pray for on Vocation Sunday? Such a day should wake *us* up, not God, so that we recognize how much *we* care for the church and how much *we* make inviting women and men to ministry a priority in our parish.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18 (50).*
“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me.”

MONDAY, APRIL 27 EASTER WEEKDAY

You’re part of the fold

The Bible has many references to shepherds and sheepfolds, a stone wall enclosure, sometimes with thorn bushes on top, that kept animals of prey at bay. When Jesus said he was their shepherd, his listeners would have understood the lengths to which he had gone for them because in ancient times the shepherd slept outside, at the gate of the sheepfold, to make sure the sheep stayed safe. Jesus is willing to do anything to save us. Be grateful to be in the fold, and listen for his voice!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 (279).* *“Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.”*

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

FEAST OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY, MARTYR
Gentle strength

Peter Chanel, who was martyred in 1841 at the tender age of 33, was one of the original members of the Society of Mary, commonly known as Marists. Today the society consists of “men and women who strive to live the gospel the way Mary lived We gather into religious congregations and lay movements” that believe “true strength is found in gentleness Like Mary, we too can hear the gentle rhythms of the grace of God in our lives by making our own her manner of thinking, judging, feeling, and acting.” Listen to Mary and you, too, can be guided by her gentleness and grace. The world needs more of this kind of strength!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280).* *“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

FEAST OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
Peace is the way through

Here’s a new definition of crazy-busy: the saint who dies of exhaustion at age 33. Catherine started having visions at 7 and joined the Tertiary Dominicans at 13, not wasting any time in the realm of holy living. By 29 she served as the pope’s mediator, with reconciliation of conflict her mission in life. “Hatred deprives us of divine charity,” she declared. “How stupidly blind not to see that with the sword of hatred for our neighbors we are killing ourselves!” In every conflict, seek reconciliation and peace.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 12:24-13:5a; John 12:44-50 (281).* *“I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world.”*

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 MEMORIAL OF PIUS V, POPE, RELIGIOUS

Core of your being

Everyone wears a variety of hats in life—parent, child, spouse, friend, student, accountant, doctor, nun—many important roles that define, in part, identity. Saint Pius V had one very defining role indeed—that of pope, in the 16th century. But beneath his papal vestments, he always had on the simple robes of his Dominican order to remind himself, with humility, of who he was first and foremost. No matter what parts you play, no matter how much you get caught up in them, underneath it all you are in essence, like everyone else, a beloved child of God.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20 (282).* *“Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him.”*

FRIDAY, MAY 1 FEAST OF JOSEPH THE WORKER; EASTER WEEKDAY

We celebrate the work of our hands

Is work a sacrament? We might laugh at the idea: “Not where I work, it isn’t!” But if a sacrament is a common thing that contains and reveals a sacred reality—like bread, wine, oil, water, promises, touch—then what we produce has the potential to be sacramental. Think of home-cooked meals that knit families together around a common table. Think of creative collaborations in the classroom or boardroom that bring new understanding or new possibilities to life. Fidelity, mentorship, shared burdens, release from judgment: These things make a sacrament of every hour that contains them.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 1:26-2:3 or Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Matthew 13:54-58 (559) or Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283).*
“Over all these things put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”

SATURDAY, MAY 2

FEAST OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
Stay the course

Discouraged when you encounter an obstacle or face a setback to your best-laid plans? Consider Athanasius, archbishop of Alexandria for 45 years. Forced into exile five (yes, five) different times by four different Roman emperors, he spent a total of 17 years away from his important post. Yet he kept coming back, and coming back, outlasting an empire and completing work of transcendent importance. We owe no less a doctrine than the Holy Trinity to his persistence. So think of Athanasius when you need to put your own setbacks in perspective—and while you’re at it, thank the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for his example!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284).* *“Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these.”*

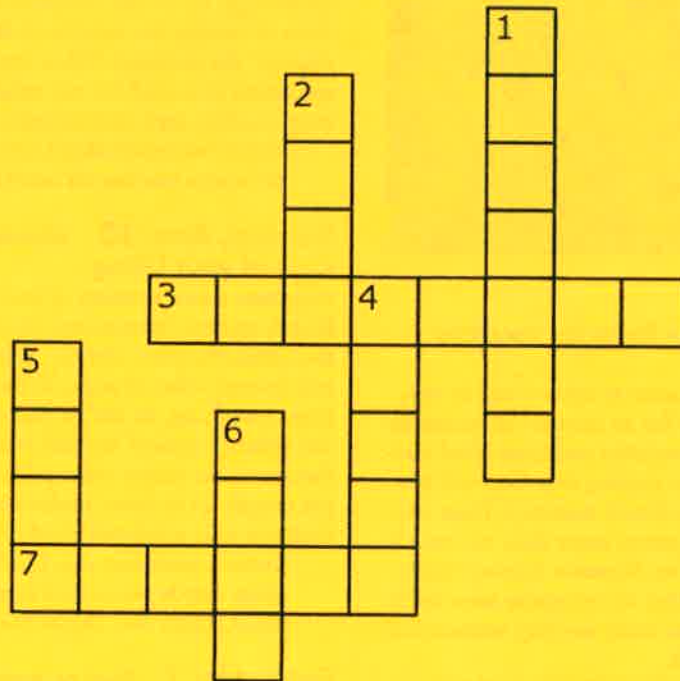


Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities

John 10:11-18



Across

- 3) In this gospel reading, Jesus says, "I am the good _____."
- 7) Jesus says that He received the command from His _____.

Down

- 1) A hired man works for pay and has no _____ for the sheep.
- 2) A good shepherd lays down his _____ for his sheep.
- 4) "I have _____ to lay it down, and power to take it up again."
- 5) In this gospel, Jesus says that a hired man sees a _____ coming and leaves the sheep and runs away.
- 6) This week's scripture reading is from the Gospel according to _____.