

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; CATHOLIC

SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS

Catholics schools, our legacy of love

It's easy to undervalue what you've always had. Take Catholic schools: We hardly remember the 19th-century U.S. bishops who fought to open schools, one diocese at a time. "First, the school; then the church," advised a bishop to his priests breaking ground in a new parish. The school manifesto arrived in the U.S. Bishops' 1884 Pastoral Letter: "Popular education has always been a chief object of the Church's care; in fact, it is not too much to say that the history of civilization and education is the history of the Church's work." Celebrate Catholic Schools Week!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-32; Mark 1:14-20 (68)*. "Jesus said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

FEAST OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS

Good leaders share the wealth

When learning is the property of the elite, the center doesn't hold. Wise leaders take care to distribute the educational advantage. Nineteenth-century leaders of the American church realized it wasn't enough to build seminaries to educate clergy. "In days like ours . . . everyone needs to be as completely armed as possible with sound knowledge, not only the clergy, but the people also," an 1884 Pastoral Letter counseled. "In the great coming battle between . . . faith and agnosticism, an important part of the fray must be borne by the laity." Our children are the church's future.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 1:1-8 OR Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:22-30 (317; Gospel 520)*. "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

FEAST OF ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Thrive and shine!

Angela Merici was a woman of faith and action. In 1535, she established a company of women devoted to serving Christ. Although it was customary at the time for consecrated women to be in the cloister, separated from the world, these women remained in the world. This new way of life lived by the Company of Saint Ursula thrived. Angela didn't set out to be a pioneer but to follow God's calling, wherever it led. In the spirit of Saint Angela, how will you respond to God's call?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:1-10; Mark 3:31-35 (318)*. "Behold, I come to do your will, O God."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

FEAST OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Theology is a humbling experience

Though Thomas Aquinas is considered the greatest of theologians, he himself had a more modest appraisal of his work. Shortly before his death he stopped working on his *Summa Theologiae*. When



asked why he did not complete it, he replied, "I cannot go on.... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." Aquinas' modesty offers a good example to the rest of us. Our greatest accomplishments pale in comparison to the majesty of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:11-18; Mark 4:1-20 (319)*. "How will you understand any of the parables?"

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Today's lesson is character

Some skills can be developed later in life. You can take a course or read a book and open doors to new ideas. But building character starts on the ground floor in childhood. Early American bishops noted that the three great educational arenas are the home, the church, and the school—all of which shape souls and societies. If "the principles of religion animate and direct" the young, they will be prepared to launch out "on the dangerous sea of life,"

an 1884 U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter declared. Give financial and volunteer support to Catholic education.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:19-25; Mark 4:21-25 (320)*. "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket . . . and not to be placed on a lamp stand?"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Free up some space for God

It's easy to get caught up in the rush of life. There are so many places to be and things to do. Sometimes you just need to pause and reevaluate what's most important. In some cases, this means giving up the worries and anxieties that add to the frenetic pace of life, making space so you can cherish all that you've been given. Faith flourishes when you make room for it. How are you being invited to make space for God in your life today? There's no end to the goodness God offers, you simply need to be free to receive it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34 (321)*. "To what shall we compare the Kingdom of God?"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

FEAST OF JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

More honey, less vinegar

Saint John Bosco believed in the potential of young people, especially ones at risk, and he was ahead of his time when it came to educating them. He believed love, not punishment, was the way to help. Ordained in Italy in 1841, he worked with juvenile delinquents and other disadvantaged kids and developed a revolutionary teaching method. "Everything and everyone is won by the sweetness of our words and works," he said. It's easy to forget this advice when young people test your patience, but wise to remember if you want to effectively get through to them.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 4:35-41 (322)*. "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."

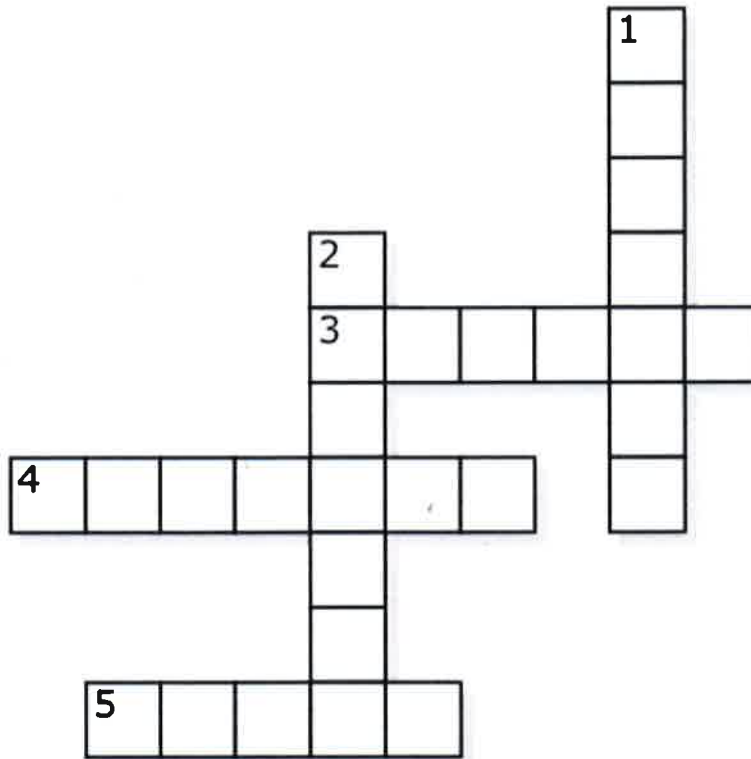


Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities

Mark 1:14-20



Across

- 3) Jesus saw Simon and his brother ____ casting their nets into the sea
4) James and John were in a boat _____ their nets
5) Jesus also called ____, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John

Down

- 1) "Come after me, and I will make you _____ of men."
2) After John had been arrested, Jesus came to _____