



SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015 TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Sea what God can do

Jesus called his first disciples along the shores of the Sea of Galilee to be “fishers of men,” so it’s only natural that Christians place importance on the imagery of the sea. One of the earliest symbols of Christ is the fish. The anchor, a symbol of safety and strength, was combined with the cross to form another Christian symbol. The ship is a symbol of the church, and the seashell is a symbol of Baptism. Ponder these rich metaphors of the sea and how God’s wondrous watery creation inspires you to understand your faith.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Job 38:1, 8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41 (95)*. “They were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?’”

MONDAY, JUNE 22 FEAST OF PAULINUS OF NOLA, BISHOP; JOHN FISHER, BISHOP, AND THOMAS MORE, MARTYRS Progress, not perfection

Who wouldn’t want to live in an ideal society? Saint Thomas More shared his vision of what that would be like in his famous novel *Utopia*. Of course, this idea has many antecedents in the Judeo-Christian tradition from which More’s idea derived: the Garden of Eden, Promised Land, kingdom of God, and heaven. Unfortunately, More lived in a society far from ideal under the turbulent reign of England’s King Henry VIII, who had More beheaded for treason. Work toward creating a better society in the here and now with the ideals of your faith.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 7:1-5 (371)*. “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you.”

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 The charity to love

“Charity is love received and given. It is ‘grace.’” These words from Pope Benedict’s final encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth) speak to the power of love to call forth charity in all you do. That is the basis of the church’s entire social teaching—the “proclamation of the truth of Christ’s love in society.” By giving and receiving the grace of God’s love, you live to serve the truth. This is a narrow road to travel to goodness, but it promises a better person and a better society. Love like you mean it today—in a grace-filled way that’ll change the world!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 13:2, 5-18; Matthew 7:6, 12-14 (372)*. “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.”

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST Summer celebration of good news

Dating to the early Middle Ages and falling close to the summer solstice, “Saint John’s Day” attracted customs that mix Christian and non-Christian elements. “Saint John’s fires” are bonfires lit on hilltops on the eve of the feast. St. John’s Wort, an herb said to have healing powers, is plucked during the night of the feast. Straw figures are thrown into the flames and loud noises are made to drive demons away. As with Halloween, which announces All Saints Day, Saint John’s Eve announces the day to come, and the quaint customs can be seen for the deeper truths they point to—in this case, John’s announcement that really good news was on the way!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Day: Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80 (587)*. “They were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, ‘No. He will be called John.’”

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 The Lord is my rock

Everyone has a story to tell and many stories bear witness to the resilience of humanity. When we encounter people who exhibit strength in adversity, we often stand in awe at their ability to carry on. Institutions, leaders, or jobs may fail them. Illness may limit them. Loved ones may disappoint. But those who know that the Lord is their rock and foundation manifest a capacity for joy in the midst of heartache or struggle. Imagine yourself atop a massive rock and surrender your worries to the Lord.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16; Matthew 7:21-29 (374)*. “It did not collapse; it had been solidly set on rock.”

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 Place your fear in the Lord

Fear isn’t usually a good thing. It can keep you from speaking up or taking risks. Yet, fear of the Lord is held up as an ideal. Why would you be afraid of the God who loves you? God doesn’t want you to live in fear. This fear is less about discomfort and anxiety than awe and reverence. God’s covenant is built on this: the promise of good to those who fear him. It’s a healthy fear—a respect for the enormity of God’s loving power. Take a moment today to be inspired by all that holy fear calls you to.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Matthew 8:1-4 (375)*. “See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.”

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 FEAST OF CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH We all come from the same holy stock

Cyril of Alexandria was central to the “working out” in the fourth century of the relationship of each member of the Trinity, a process not without literal battles and bloodshed between believers—orthodox Christians vs. Nestorians, for example—who believed in the Trinity, but in different ways. Not even saints are immune from ill-expressed emotions, poor judgments, and violent disagreements. Pray today that believers of various religious backgrounds not use their own vision of truth as a reason to attack and destroy each other, but rather to seek unity. As Cyril put it, “Because of our kinship with the Word made flesh we are [all children] of God.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 18:1-15; Matthew 8:5-17 (376)*. “Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven.”



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

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Read the Gospel and Color



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He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"