



PREDILLA OF THE SAN DOMENICO ALTARPIECE, FRA ANGELO (1423)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015 SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS  
Happy feast day to you!**

Today the Catholic community remembers the canonized saints of the church who are models of fidelity and “heroic lives of virtue,” according to the Catechism. Many among us also cherish the memories of our beloved dead who we believe are among God’s communion of saints. However, few of us realize that all of us who are members of the church are called “saints,” so today is, in fact, our feast day. It is a day to celebrate those who have gone before us, a day for gratitude for the lives of holy men and women who inspire and intercede for us, and a day to sustain us in our efforts to “live heroic lives of virtue.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a (667).* “Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven.”

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 FEAST OF THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS’ DAY)  
Nothing to fear**

When it comes to colorful holidays, Mexico’s Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is hard to beat. It is celebrated over the course of Halloween, All Saints’ Day, and All Souls’ Day and involves visiting graves and creating often elaborate and beautiful altars, and honoring deceased loved ones with flowers, their favorite foods, and other gifts. There are parades and dancing in costume. Such festivity shared with the dearly departed is a reminder to all Catholics that Christ’s victory over death is something to celebrate indeed.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40 (668).* “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life.”

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 FEAST OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS  
Mix it up for racial harmony**

The story of Martin de Porres couldn’t be more timely. Born in present-day Lima, Peru in 1579, Martin’s father was from Spain and his mother was a freed black woman from Panama. Having to overcome countless barriers and prejudices to achieve distinction in religious life, he devoted himself to the care of those brought from Africa in chains. Martin is the patron saint of mixed-race people and all those seeking interracial harmony. We need a Martin—many Martins—today. You and I can each “be Martin” in our own ways if we reach across all that divides us—race, class, prejudice, and most of all, fear—and work for the justice that creates harmony.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 12:5-16ab; Luke 14:15-24 (486).* “Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in . . .”

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 FEAST OF CHARLES BORROMEO, BISHOP  
’Tis a gift to be simple**

Reformers of powerful institutions tend to be admired at a distance and resisted up close. We hear how our current reform-minded pope is one of the most popular in history, except perhaps in the inner Vatican sanctums of high privilege where the comfortable are

feeling the heat. Charles Borromeo, bishop of Milan in the 1500s, found a church leadership lax and comfortable with Christendom’s privileges and abuses. His reform-minded agenda of austerity and simplicity did not go over well in the halls of power. Yet the call continues to go out, to each of us here and now living in a world of poverty, to live simply so that others may simply live.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33 (487).* “Every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5  
Follow the leader**

The Good Shepherd image appears often on the walls and ceilings of the Christian catacombs near Rome. Like other images in the catacombs, such as the fish, anchor, dove, and peacock, the Good Shepherd reflects early Christian ideas about Jesus. In some illustrations, the Good Shepherd is depicted with sheep at his side or following him. In others, the Good Shepherd is carrying a sheep on his shoulders. The images convey the early Christians’ understanding of Jesus’ leadership, love, and care for them. How does the image of the Good Shepherd reflect your relationship with Jesus?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 14:7-12; Luke 15:1-10 (488).* “Rejoice with me because I have found the lost sheep.”

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6  
Reach beyond belief**

The responsibility of a disciple goes far beyond belief. Part of being a disciple means being a steward, that is, taking care of the goods and graces with which God has entrusted humanity. A good steward gives her or his all to live in fidelity to God’s call. That means offering your time, talent, and treasure to fulfill God’s will and serve God’s people. Sometimes this can seem like a thankless task, but true stewards find joy in living their calling and giving their all. Holding true to that call takes faith, but the reward for such stewardship is beyond measure.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8 (489).* “I myself am convinced about you, my brother and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness.”

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7  
Who’s on first?**

We can make excuses for the countless ways in which God takes second place in our lives. Time is scarce, work and parenting demand our attention, maintaining a home, planning schedules, and, yes, even worrying about all these things become our false gods. We tell ourselves that we will make time for God when we find some extra time. But in reality, God too often is not the master we are serving. Status, material wealth, social media, obsession with relatively trivial matters—these are the things that seem to absorb our hearts. Ask today for the grace to see as God sees.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16:9-15 (490).* “What man thinks is important, God holds in contempt.”



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 - Mt 5:1-12a



BLESSED	CHILDREN	CLEAN
COMFORTED	CROWDS	DISCIPLES
JESUS	KINGDOM	MATTHEW
MEEK	MERCIFUL	MOUNTAIN
MOURN	PEACEMAKERS	PERSECUTED
POOR	RIGHTEOUSNESS	SATISFIED
TEACH		