



CHRIST WEARING THE CROWN OF THORNS, SUPPORTED BY ANGELS, ANNIBALE CARRACCI (1585-1587)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE An out-of-this-world kingdom

Today's great feast is both fitting and just a bit awkward. It has historical roots in a secular political struggle over the Vatican's territory, and Jesus himself rejected any kingship in the temporal sense, and thus was mocked by the Romans with a crown of thorns and the title "king of the Jews." So it could be helpful to understand today's celebration as referring to Christ's dominion over the human heart and spirit. Christ reigns in each of us when we aspire to know and to serve the Lord by doing what he did among us—healing, teaching, reconciling, caring, loving. That's the terrain where Christ is king. Invite Christ into the universe of your heart today and every day.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37 (161)*. "For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth."

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 FEAST OF CLEMENT I, POPE, MARTYR Successful succession

One of the principles that has helped the church endure these past 2,000 years despite all internal failings and external attacks is that of apostolic succession, the unbroken chain of leadership from Jesus through Peter down to the present day. Pope Clement I served as one of the earliest links in that chain and helped establish the principle of succession. Though divisions exist—East and West, Reformation and Counter-Reformation—we can hope that the apostolic blessing still at work in the church will bring us all to greater unity and keep this wonderful experiment in faith and compassion going another 2,000 years and beyond.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503)*. "He said, I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

FEAST OF ANDREW DŨNG-LAC, PRIEST, MARTYR, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS Stay strong

Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam in the 1800s, and their sacrifice helped Christianity take hold in their country. There is now a large number of Catholics in Vietnam, but they are still persecuted. People of religions the world over face oppression, discrimination, and even physical danger because of their beliefs—and yet they still maintain their faith and practice their traditions. Emulate their steadfastness (likely in your case in the face of lesser challenges) and extend tolerance to everyone.



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

©2015 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and App available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Contributors: Alice Camille, Peg Ekerdt, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Father Lamy Janowski, O.F.M., Sister Maxine Kollasch, I.H.M., Jennifer Tamshack, Patrice J. Tuohy, Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504)*. "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

FEAST OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR The writing's on the wall

Who first read the writing on the wall? Daniel, with his mystical ability to interpret signs. Enemies consigned him to the lion's den but he was left unharmed. Catherine of Alexandria, also gifted with divine wisdom, faced torment on a wheel that burst apart rather than restrain her. Many seek God's wisdom today by beginning the Miraculous Novena of Grace through the intercession of Francis Xavier—five Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory Be's for nine days for a special intention: "But if what I ask does not tend to Your glory, obtain for me what is more profitable." A wise prayer!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505)*. "This is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, TEKEL, and PERES."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 THANKSGIVING DAY An amazing day for thanks

In the year in which Pope Francis published his encyclical on climate change, *Laudate Si* (On the Care of Our Common Home), perhaps it would be fitting to recite the first verse of a beloved poem by e.e. cummings: *i thank You God for most this amazing / day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees / and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything / which is natural which is infinite which is yes*. A fitting blessing for a table filled with the bounty of the earth. Perhaps we can also take a moment in our conversation to ponder the little things we can each do to keep the earth bountiful and blessed for generations to come.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 6:12-28; Luke 21:20-28 (506)*. "Bless the God of all, who has done wondrous things on earth."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

History has many faces

As the church year winds down, we view history through the lens of apocalypse. Produced two centuries before Jesus, the book of Daniel reflects a community weary of foreign rule. Unable to liberate themselves, citizens of Israel hoped for God's final liberation. Today we commemorate Native American Heritage Day, honoring the contributions, sacrifices, and cultural legacy of this land's original peoples. Our shared past is full of painful memories, but our future can be one of respect and courageous dialogue.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507)*. "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Take a moment for Mary

Honoring Mary on Saturday is a tradition that goes back to at least the seventh century. Through the centuries a variety of theological reasons were given for doing so: God brought creation to fruition on the seventh day (Saturday) and Mary brought salvation to fruition with the birth of Jesus; Sunday is the Lord's Day, so it seemed appropriate to offer the preceding day to Mary, his mother; God rested on the seventh day, the Sabbath, while Jesus rested both in the womb of Mary before birth and in her loving arms at his death. Whatever your own reason for wishing to thank and honor Mary today, take a quiet moment to rest in her presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 (508)*. "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me."

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities - Jn 18:33B-37



ANSWERED

CHIEF

FIGHTING

JOHN

LISTENS

PRIESTS

VOICE

ATTENDANTS

CHRIST

JESUS

KING

NATION

TESTIFY

WORLD

BORN

EVERYONE

JEWS

KINGDOM

PILATE

TRUTH