



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Give and receive

Almsgiving, donating to the poor and performing other acts of charity, is an obligation of Christians—a “witness to fraternal charity” and a “work of justice pleasing to God,” according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Pope Francis has called this concern for others “small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.” There is much to reap from charity sown, and everyone, including you, stands to benefit from the sharing of gifts. What individuals and organizations could use your time, talent, and things?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (367). “God loves a cheerful giver.”*

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

We are one body

We insist that our sins are private matters to be discussed with God. But the prayer that Jesus gave us reminds us that we are bound together by “our” Father, and what we do and fail to do impacts the lives of all who belong to the family of God. Our sins are not private. Rather, sin damages the bonds that unite humanity: Greed excludes, lies destroy, lust denigrates, and selfishness ignores the needs of others. The sacrament of Reconciliation helps us make amends with God and community as we name our sins aloud and celebrate God’s mercy and forgiveness.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Corinthians 11:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (368). “Forgive us the wrong that we have done.”*

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

FEAST OF ROMUALD, ABBOT

Life-changing moments

Though he ended up living an ascetic life and founding an order of hermit monks, Romuald started off as an aristocrat in Ravenna, Italy (c. 951), indulging in a life of pleasure and excess. When he was 20, however, he assisted his father at a duel in which his father killed a relative over a property dispute. The event profoundly shook Romuald and forever altered the course of his life, leading him to his monastic vocation. Think back on your life and see if you can recall an event that changed its course forever. Has it led or could it lead you to a deeper practice of your faith?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30; Matthew 6:19-23 (369). “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.”*

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturdays with Mary

For centuries the church has held Saturday as a day dedicated to Mary. Though it is not certain how the tradition began, honoring Mary on Saturday has a deep history. The eighth-century Benedictine monk Saint Alcuin played a significant role in helping to establish this custom. He composed a number of formulas for devotional Masses with two Saturday “formularies” dedicated to Mary. The custom was popular and to this day, we remember Mary in various ways on Saturday from special gatherings to personal prayer to outreach to help others. How might Mary walk with you on this Saturday?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Matthew 6:24-34 (370). “My grace is sufficient for you.”*

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015 ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Be the seed, willing to grow

The life of El Salvador’s recently beatified Archbishop Oscar Romero provides evidence that one life, one humble seed, can become a giant shrub of faith. This unassuming but faithful man was willing to learn and to grow. It is slow work, this growing. But it is necessary to be part of the Kingdom. Be as faithful to the gospel as you know how to be and be open to the surprise of what God can do with one small seed. Place a seed packet on your table as a reminder of God’s invitation to grow in faith.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34 (92). “The seed sprouts and grows without his knowing how it happens.”*

MONDAY, JUNE 15

Be fruitful

In the wake of Pentecost, the first disciples set out to spread the Good News in the world. The fire of the Holy Spirit burned within them, calling them to action. That same Spirit is in action in you today. Aside from the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed on you in the sacrament of Confirmation, the Spirit working within your life produces 12 distinct fruits: charity, generosity, joy, gentleness, peace, faithfulness, patience, modesty, kindness, self-control, goodness, and chastity. When you look at your life, can you see these fruits? How are you bearing these fruits in the world?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 5:38-42 (365). “Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation.”*

TUESDAY, JUNE 16
Claimed by God

“To know God, we must walk through life in love, love for our neighbor, love for those who hate us, love for all,” said Pope Francis in a [2015 Vatican radio address](#). He reminds us that God’s love has a claim on our actions. We’re called to express God’s love in concrete ways, doing so not only when it’s convenient or when it involves only the people who love us too. Pope Francis urges us to visibly reflect the expansive love of God to all people. How might our actions today express God’s love?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Matthew 5:43-48 (366). “I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”*



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 4:26-34

W T X L S G R O W E M X Z Y Y H F Z Z O
Z M J K K Z Q Z K W W V Z C R O W D S Q
W A Z S X K P J E S U S Q M Q D Z V L Q
X R J Z X W A Y Q W Z X K Y E K X Y X Q
U K Q J W Q R J L V C B Q E P L A N T S
N X D M I Q A Y Z Z W X S D Z J K Y J Z
D Z I Q Z W B K N L J W R Z U H P H Y D
E Z S Q L Q L Y F J K A W X J Y Y G J B
R Q C Q T F E G F B T Y M C C W E Q S Z
S W I G K Q S G W S K O E Z P W A Z P W
T Z P Z G Z F J U Z D K Z Q R Q R J R N
A Z L Z S V G M Z G V B S J I Y T S O Y
N K E Q C Z Y Y N S G W F Z V Y H M U G
D K S Z A Q W I Q Z W W G W A Y D A T V
F L Z O T X K Y H A R V E S T Z Z L K P
X X F O T Y D B K X X M Z Q E Q G L M Q
X P X Q E M M Z W J M X N M G M Q E Q B
Z B J W R M F R U I T B B J Y T Z S K V
G W Y X H B R A N C H E S N X Q Z T V N
T G R O U N D Q J X F F B W F H L W J W

Word Bank

Branches, Crowds, Disciples, Earth, Fruit, Ground, Grow, Harvest, Jesus, Kingdom, Mark,
Mustard, Parables, Plants, Private, Scatter, Seed, Smallest, Sprout, Understand

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