



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Taking desert time

The word *desert* often evokes images of a vast, hostile environment devoid of life. Yet the desert is a common symbol used in scripture to give context to an experience of God. It can, for example, be a symbol of quieting ourselves and finding our grounding in God, even in the busyness of everyday life. How do you enter into the desert? While we may not have a vast wilderness to retreat into, we can find small ways: plugging into our favorite reflective song, breathing in fresh air, closing our eyes and opening our heart to God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30-5:2; John 6:41-51 (116)*. "Elijah went a day's journey into the desert."

## MONDAY, AUGUST 10 FEAST OF SAINT LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR

### Know where your treasure lies

When Saint Lawrence, a third-century deacon, was ordered by the prefect of Rome to hand over whatever wealth the early church had, Lawrence rounded up the poor and sick, presented them to the prefect, and announced, "These are the treasures of the church!" The poor and sick continue to be the church's greatest treasure. "In the poor and outcast," says Pope Francis, "we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ." In your service to those in material need you will find your life's greatest riches.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26 (618)*. "Where I am, there also will my servant be."

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 FEAST OF CLARE, VIRGIN

### Support your soul companions

Clare of Assisi was born into a well-to-do family in 1194. By custom, she was expected to marry into a family of similar social status. After hearing Francis preach, Clare chose a very different path. Like Francis, Clare desired to follow closely the model of Jesus. Her wish for a life of prayer, simplicity, and evangelical poverty was realized in 1212 when she and Francis founded the second Franciscan order, later known as the Order of Saint Clare. The two encouraged and supported each other for the rest of their lives. Today, say special prayers for your companions on the spiritual journey!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414)*. "It is the Lord, your God, who marches with you; he will never fail you or forsake you."

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

### Let the children lead

Today is International Youth Day, a good day to acknowledge that the future is present and walking among us. A day to ponder your own legacy—what can you offer the youth of today? What have you learned that you can teach? Where have you found good in the world that you can point out to those whose eyes are fresher? How has your faith helped in hard times and what lessons can you pass on?

And what can you learn in turn from those who are more innocent and spontaneous?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20 (415)*.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

### Healthy hearts forgive

The Mayo Clinic specializes in wellness—not just physical health but also emotional wellness. Their list of the benefits of forgiving someone include: healthier relationships; greater spiritual and psychological well-being; less anxiety, stress, and hostility; lower blood pressure; fewer symptoms of depression; a stronger immune system; improved heart health; higher self-esteem. Pretty healthy stuff, this forgiveness. Take two forgiveness pills and call an estranged loved one in the morning!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21-19:1 (416)*. "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 FEAST OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR

### Love like this saves the world

The old Burt Bacharach song said, "What the world needs now, is love, sweet love," and Franciscan Maximilian Kolbe showed that it is possible to give the world what it needs in Jesus' name. Kolbe summed up a life of love and service in a simple but dramatic act. Hearing a fellow prisoner at Auschwitz cry out, "My wife! My children!" as his name was called out for execution, Kolbe volunteered to take his place. There were likely thousands of similar heroic acts of compassion in the years of the death camps—flickers of love and light—now forgotten. But Kolbe's story has been remembered and retold just to remind you that while your act of love today probably will not cost you your life, it will go far to bring Christ's sweet love alive.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12 (417)*. "No greater love than to lay down life for a friend."

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Say yes to God

The young woman who traveled the hill country to visit her cousin on that long ago day did not know what the future held. Pregnant, and with more questions than answers, she nonetheless had given her assent to God's will. It was the first yes in an earthly life of total surrender. That young woman on the road to Judah would have been as stunned as anyone to know she would share in her Son's Resurrection. She alone among humanity would one day be taken, body and soul, into heavenly glory. Ask for the grace to surrender the worries of this day to Mary's Son.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28 (621); Day: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56 (622)*. "Blessed are you who believed."



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 Activity - John 6:41-51

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

AMEN	ANCESTORS	BREAD
ETERNAL	FATHER	FOREVER
HEAVEN	JESUS	JEWS
JOSEPH	LIFE	LISTENS
MANNA	MOTHER	MURMURING
PROPHETS	RAISE	TAUGHT
WORLD	WRITTEN	