

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015

### TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Put love in the balance

Church law is to be studied so as to be understood, and considered so as to be integrated into daily life. But the law that supersedes all other laws is love of God and love of neighbor. We must weigh every act in light of God's law of love. Keep your conscience well informed by sacred reading, listening, praying, and taking in all of life so that you will be able to determine where love resides on every issue.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (125)*. "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders?"

## MONDAY, AUGUST 31

### Come together

Everyone likes to think they're special. And indeed, everyone is. But not more so than anyone else. All of humanity is saved by Christ. As Pope Francis says, "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ; all of us, not just Catholics." This teaching is nothing new in the church; it's been spoken by popes, saints, and apostles for 2,000 years. Whether a person believes in the Good News or not, the Holy Father says, "... do good! We shall meet there."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431)*. "... we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words."

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

### For everything there is a season

For many, this time of year, when summer ends and school begins, feels more like the beginning of a new year than January 1. In fact, Jews and Muslims celebrate their new years in late summer/early fall. But it's Ordinary Time in the Catholic liturgical calendar, and as summer fun winds down and you get back to "ordinary" life, remember to take time to reflect and seek spiritual renewal with the changing season. Cooler weather and shorter days are conducive to turning inward; cultivate light and warmth in your heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432)*. "... you are children of the light and children of the day."

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### Faith comes first

A major part of Jesus' active ministry was as a healer. Those who came to him had faith that he could heal them; they believed in his power and were changed because of it. Scripture scholar Father Donald Senior, C.P. writes, "If there was faith, then the miracle had already begun: the miracle of a transformed life ... physical cures were simply dramatic illustrations of the fundamental restoration Jesus worked in everyone whom he touched and who believed in him." Faith drew people to Jesus for healing,



not the other way around. Believing opens your life to God and allows for transformation that's nothing short of miraculous.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433)*. "I trust in the mercy of God forever."

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

### FEAST OF GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Noblesse oblige

According to Luke's gospel, "much will be required of the person entrusted with much," and much was certainly given to and by Pope Saint Gregory the Great. Gregory was born in sixth-century Rome into a wealthy, high-ranking family. He had the best education and was an excellent student. He was sur-

rounded by strong religious influences; his mother and two aunts became saints. And he applied his blessings to making his chaotic world a better place with his many accomplishments. What have you been given that can be given back in service?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434)*. "You may be filled with the knowledge of God's will ... to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit ..."

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

### Give God a smile

Here's a simple challenge: Smile when you receive Communion. Many of us find that hard to do. Why? Because we are aware that we are sinners; we know that the Lord is mighty and wondrous, and we are not. But, if we truly trust in the Lord's promise, we know that we are loved and showered with mercy. We believe that in every misstep we make, the Lord is there to help us back on the path of love. That is the promise of the Eucharist: that God is with us, ever present, ever available to us. And so, we have every right to put on a happy face. In fact, as today's responsorial psalm reminds us, it is our sacred duty to "come with joy into the presence of the Lord."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39 (435)*. "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?"

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

### Rest with God

The Sabbath is a concept that traces its origins back to the story of creation in the Book of Genesis. On the seventh day, God rested. This act shows that rest has a part to play in the work of creation. As Christians, we are called to take time each week to, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, "rest in God." We pause so we can be rejuvenated. We acknowledge the holiness of each day. We worship and witness to a God whose work is never done. And we realize that each day is a call to be co-creators with our God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436)*. "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

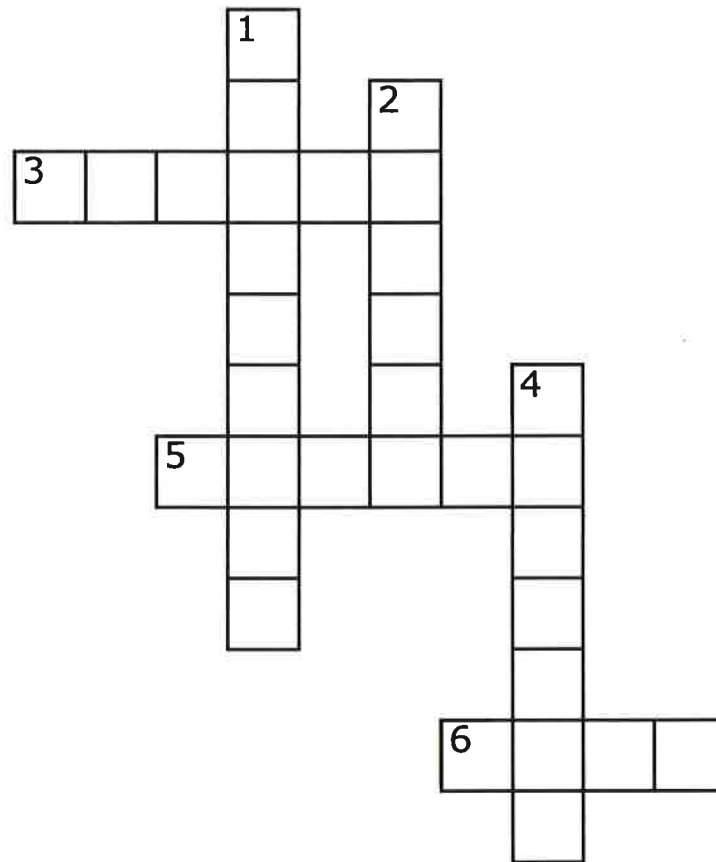


Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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# CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities - Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23



## Across

- 3) "This people honors me with their lips, but their \_\_\_\_\_ are far from me"
- 5) Jesus said, "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from \_\_\_\_\_ are what defile."
- 6) This week, we read from the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

- 1) The Pharisees did not eat without \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
- 2) Who is the prophet quoted in this gospel?
- 4) The Pharisees observed that some of Jesus' disciples ate their meals with \_\_\_\_\_, that is, unwashed, hands.