

Sunday, Oct 15, 2017

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Accept the invitation

Have you ever shown up at a party or other social function only to realize you're woefully underdressed? It's unnerving to realize everyone else is in formal wear when you came ready for a picnic. In today's gospel Jesus taps into the powerful symbol of clothing as revealer of our interior disposition when he tells about the wedding guests who uninvite themselves by showing up in the wrong clothes—that is, unprepared to join the celebration. It's not that Jesus is a stickler for fashion do's and don'ts, but he cares enormously about the state of our hearts. And so should we.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14 (142). *"Many are called, but few are chosen."*

Monday, Oct 16, 2017

MEMORIAL OF MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, VIRGIN

Take heart in Jesus

Devotion to the physical heart of Jesus goes back to the Middle Ages, but it really did not become widespread until a Visitation sister, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, had a series of visions between 1673 and 1675 that gave a clearer shape to the devotion. Though prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus became one of the most popular devotions in the history of Catholicism, it did have its opponents, who thought it meant separating the human part of Jesus from the divine and worshiping it—idolatry, in other words. What they failed to see was that the Sacred Heart testified to the Incarnation: how God took human form and showed mercy and love for humanity. Adore Jesus' humanity by showing that same mercy and love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32 (467). *"Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise."*

Tuesday, Oct 17, 2017

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

The same yesterday, today, and tomorrow

Ignatius, born in the first generation after Jesus, became bishop of Antioch in the year 69, shortly after the deaths of Peter and Paul. On the way to his own martyrdom in Rome, Ignatius wrote seven letters revealing much about the early church. They affirm that the humanity of Jesus was not simply an appearance; that the Eucharist is the "flesh of our Savior"; and that the bishop is the primary teacher of the faithful. Ignatius was also the first to describe the church as "catholic" as in universal. Appreciate the gift of consistency in teachings across the millennia.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41 (468). *"But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you."*

Wednesday, Oct 18, 2017

FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

Retell the story

To Luke is attributed the authorship of both the gospel bearing his name and the Book of Acts; the two books are really one continuous work. Reputed to have been a physician, Luke also went with Paul on one of his missionary journeys. Each of the gospel writers addressed a somewhat different audience and brought out somewhat different aspects of Jesus and his ministry. Luke emphasized Jesus as both the fulfillment of the hopes of the Jewish people and the light to the Gentiles. What does your

picture of Jesus include? If you were retelling the story of Jesus to someone, how would you frame it?

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661). *"Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest."*

Thursday, Oct 19, 2017

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Faithful to the end

Saints Isaac Jogues and John de Brébeuf were among a group of Jesuit missionaries who tried to evangelize Native Canadians in the 1640s in what is now Ontario and upstate New York, often meeting fierce resistance. After a long imprisonment, Jogues returned to France to recuperate, so altered by his experience that his own brother did not recognize him. Given the option to stay in France and teach, Jogues decided to go back to the colonial territories even though it meant certain death, and indeed this time he was martyred. Determination and endurance can make an effort worthwhile, regardless of the outcome.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54 (470). *"Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication."*

Friday, Oct 20, 2017

MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

Be slow to anger

Though Jesus could have resisted his persecutors, he chose not to. Paul of the Cross, a mystic, saw in the Lord's suffering and dying the greatest demonstration of God's love. He encouraged us to imitate Christ especially when tempted to lash out at someone who is bothering or irritating us. On a small scale we can choose the path Jesus chose on a very large scale: "When you feel the assaults of passion and anger," wrote Paul, "then is the time to be silent as Jesus was silent in the midst of His ignominies and sufferings." Though this approach runs counter to our assertive culture, try it out sometime and see if it does not bear unexpected fruit in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7 (471). *"There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known."*

Saturday, Oct 21, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Shed some light on things

One of the great biblical themes is the presence of light in the world. Light is "God's eldest daughter," according to clergyman Thomas Fuller, who noted that God separated light from darkness as the primary action in Genesis. God's presence is ever after associated with light, from the flaming torch Abraham sees in a trance, to the burning bush drawing Moses to his destiny, to the pillars of fire guiding the Israelites through the desert, to the fiery tongues of Pentecost. The psalmist calls the word of God a "lamp for our feet," and Jesus calls himself the light of the world. Pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary today, asking God for this discerning light in your decision-making.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:13, 16-18; Luke 12:8-12 (472). *"I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God."*

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



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