

Sunday, Nov 26, 2017

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Get your passport stamped

The man we call the “good thief” turned his life around in the final hour when he encountered Jesus on the cross at Golgotha. One good act of repentance was all it took for him to enter the Kingdom. The passport to the reign of God is still the same. Repentance involves a change of heart followed by a change in direction. What needs to change in your habits, relationships, attitudes? Take that step and claim your citizenship in a Kingdom not of this world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46 (160). “*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink.*”

Monday, Nov 27, 2017

Move beyond pity

Widows in ancient times were to be pitied and granted favors, but of course, those filled with the Spirit had a tendency to turn perceptions upside down. So we find widows in the Bible who are models of faithfulness (1 Kings 17), insight (Luke 2), righteousness (Luke 18), and generosity (Luke 21). Whom do you pigeonhole as pitiable? Homeless people? The undocumented? People with mental and physical disabilities? No doubt the people you feel sorry for can benefit from your concern and care, but they might surprise you with gifts of their own that will enrich you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503). “*But she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.*”

Tuesday, Nov 28, 2017

Here he comes now!

If you ever hear doomsday theorists say the end of the world is due any day now, it makes sense to be a little wary. And we have this advice from a good authority: Jesus. Of course we believe Jesus will return to bring the reign of God to fulfillment and judge the world. But only God knows the timetable. We get ready best by always looking for Christ's coming, not only at the end of time but in our everyday lives. If we're ready for him now, we'll be ready for him later.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504). “*Do not go after them.*”

Wednesday, Nov 29, 2017

Would you testify to that?

Testimony has always been part of being a Christian. For the first few centuries, just getting baptized was practically a death sentence, as Christians were regularly hauled into court to profess their faith and accept the consequences. Even after Christianity was no longer outlawed, in times and places throughout history it still hasn't been safe to wear a cross or go to Mass. Christians in some parts of the world today face persecution, but even those who don't must still testify to their faith. How do you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505). “*You will be brought before kings and governors. This will give you an opportunity to testify.*”

Thursday, Nov 30, 2017

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

Take a closer walk

Andrew was a seeker. As a young man he went out to the desert to find out what that wild man, John the Baptist, had to offer. What the Baptist offered was the best advice any of us could ever get: “Follow Jesus.” Andrew sought out Jesus, became one of the first apostles, and followed him to his own death. Today is a good day to honor the seeker within you. In each of us there is a little voice that spurs us on to seek a truer relationship with God. In memory of Andrew, listen to that little voice within.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). “*Jesus said to Simon and Andrew, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'*”

Friday, Dec 01, 2017

Do you ever wonder?

Every age has its own particular mindset through which the people view their world. Our 21st-century perspective could be called “scientific.” Whatever we can see with our eyes and measure with our instruments, we believe. Eight hundred years ago the prevailing attitude was “wonder.” In the Middle Ages all of creation was viewed as a symbol. It was a book in which every living thing was a word charged with meaning. The faithful were called to look through the visible to the invisible and, by reading nature, read the thoughts of God. Our amazing and helpful advances in science have sometimes come at the expense of wonder. Today, pray to the Holy Spirit for the lost gift of wonder and awe.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507). “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words not pass away.*”

Saturday, Dec 02, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mary through the ages

One wonders how much honor artists have given the mother of Jesus over the centuries by imagining her as impossibly idealized, the “lovely lady dressed in blue” of sentimental verse. Yet once in a while someone breaks through the pastel pallet. Sister Helena Steffensmeier, for example, a School Sister of St. Francis in Milwaukee, carved an image of Mary from a gnarled linden tree stump. The result: Mary not as child-bride or queen but as an old woman, a “grand” mother who has seen both terror and glory, with a face lined and wrinkled but a voice still singing: “The Lord has done good things for me. Blessed be his name.”

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 (508). “*Be vigilant at all times.*”

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



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