

Sunday, Nov 19, 2023

Curl up with the Good Book

President Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated the first National Bible Week. Presidents since have continued the tradition of encouraging scripture reading during the holidays. The practice began in 1941, when NBC radio hosted the National Bible Association's founders. News of the attack on Pearl Harbor interrupted the program, and NBC asked the association to continue reading the Bible all day to a grieving nation. This week, spend some time with scripture daily. Consider reading the book of your choice, from the Old or New Testaments. Or read a psalm of thanksgiving daily. Discover the inspiration.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30 (157). *"For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness."*

Monday, Nov 20, 2023

Can we talk?

The word *bible* is from a Greek word meaning "book." If you could have no other book, the Bible would be the one! As you count your blessings this week, don't forget to give thanks for sacred scripture and spend some time with the inspired word of God. If you haven't before, try *lectio divina* (Latin for "divine reading")—it's a traditional monastic form of praying with scripture in a meditative way to open ourselves to hearing what God is saying to us and listening for our own interior response. Scripture isn't just text, it's the Living Word—strike up a conversation!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497). *"What do you want me to do for you?"*

Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023

Mary, most exemplary

According to tradition, Mary's parents—an elderly Anne and Joachim—were so grateful for the unexpected birth of their daughter, they presented her in the Temple to thank God. Accounts also say the toddler Mary "danced with joy" on the third step of the Temple, signifying her future role. Other qualities of the Blessed Mother, present even from her youth, are enumerated in the "Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mary" that we're all encouraged to emulate as Christians: pure, prudent, humble, faithful, devout, obedient, poor, patient, merciful, and sorrowful. Cultivate these in your own life by praying the Virtues of Mary chaplet used by the Marian religious order since 1699.

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498). *"Today salvation has come to this house."*

Wednesday, Nov 22, 2023

Let the music play!

Today's gospel from Luke tells the parable of the 10 gold coins. Matthew tells the same parable (Matt. 25:14-30), only he replaces Luke's "gold coins" with "talents." Whichever version you read, it's clear that God wants us to make the most of what we've been given—and that he recognizes our efforts! In honor of today's Feast of Saint Cecilia, patron of music and musicians, enjoy Anton

Bruckner's Te Deum as performed by the talented musicians of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (National Academy of St. Cecilia, founded under Pope Sixtus V in 1585) or check out the contemporary namesake band La Santa Cecilia, recipient of the 2013 Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album (Alternative or Urban).

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499). *"I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."*

Thursday, Nov 23, 2023

Give thanks for a virtuous day

Because Thanksgiving brings together family members, personalities sometimes grate, children might misbehave, and the gravy surely will spill. It's an ideal day to practice what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the "cardinal virtues": prudence (think before you act), justice (be fair), fortitude (don't give up), and temperance (maintain your equilibrium). These virtues smooth out the bumps in human interaction. Ask God to increase in you the virtue you most need for a happy celebration today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500).

Mass for Thanksgiving Day (943-947). *"If this day you only knew what makes for peace."*

Friday, Nov 24, 2023

Follow the rule

"Keep the rule, and the rule will keep you." In this monastic proverb, "rule" refers to the daily rhythm of life for monks and nuns that is grounded in their foundation and charism as a community and oriented toward Jesus the Christ. The rule helps the community develop habits for prayer, work, relationships, study, and even play. Monastics still follow a rule of life, as do other intentional communities. Each of us can develop a rule of life according to our own daily rhythm and relationship with God. This rule will keep us grounded, even when the inevitable storms of life roll in.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501). *"Let us go up to purify the sanctuary and rededicate it."*

Saturday, Nov 25, 2023

No room for violence

On this day in 1960 a trio of courageous sisters was brutally assassinated for opposing the murderous regime of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. Since 1993, the U.N. has commemorated World Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in honor of the Mirabal sisters. It is an appropriate coincidence that today we also honor Catherine of Alexandria, a young convert martyred at the tender age of 18 during Roman persecutions around the year 300. She was reportedly subject to terrible tortures, but her courage instead attracted hundreds more converts. No woman should have to endure violence for any reason. Today is a day we can honor martyrs both modern and ancient with a firm *"No más, no more."*

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, YOUTH MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502).

"They are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."

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



©2023 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**