

Sunday, Oct 19, 2025

No need to duke it out

"Sometimes I get so mad at God," one woman told the priest, "that I'd like to punch him right in the nose!" Yikes! It sounds irreverent, but that's exactly what Jesus is saying in an amusing parable about a widow and a judge. The judge renders a decision for the widow because he fears the woman will strike him! If that's true for a worldly judge, Jesus says, how much more will the Judge of All be quick to answer a prayer. Faith, then, is waiting in joyful and expectant hope for our God, the truly just judge, who answers all our prayers. So you can put the gloves away.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Luke 18:1-8 (147). *"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"*

Monday, Oct 20, 2025

Be generous with your time

Jealously guarding our time can be considered a form of greed. We receive from God the gift of 24/7; we need to give some of it as a gift. That's why this week we observe Pastoral Care Week, sponsored by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. This week was established to recognize the many ways church professionals respond with attentive listening to those with physical, emotional, or spiritual concerns. Hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and your local parish will accept volunteers who wish to donate their time for this important work. "What does love look like?" Saint Augustine asks. "It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others. That is what love looks like." Cut loose a couple of hours a week and give them to someone in need.

Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473). *"The one who stores up treasure for himself is not rich in what matters to God."*

Tuesday, Oct 21, 2025

The virtue of patience

Waiting is among the greatest spiritual challenges a believer faces. Twentieth-century French philosopher and Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, whose visionary writings were not always well received in certain Catholic circles, knew what it meant to wait. It wasn't until several decades after his death that the church fully embraced his theological insights. His prayer "Patient Trust," borne out of his own trials, continues to offer hope for those who wait: "Above all, trust in the slow work of God. /We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. . . . /Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete."

Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474). *"Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks."*

Wednesday, Oct 22, 2025

Hold yourself accountable

On the back of countless trucks on our highways appears the curious inquiry: "How is my driving?" The accompanying number to call invites our critique. What if we all came equipped with signs inviting the moral critique of those around us? We might be

surprised and not at all pleased with the feedback. Thankfully, Christianity doesn't rely on external judgment; Jesus even warned against judging others. But we are encouraged to perform our own regular examination of conscience. Take a look at your life and loves, relationships and resources, talents and time. How are you doing?

Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475). *"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much."*

Thursday, Oct 23, 2025

Light a fire under your spiritual growth

Jesus shocks his disciples—and many of us as well, no doubt—when he declares that he came not to establish peace but rather division, to "set the earth on fire." What kind of fire did he have in mind? Fire in biblical times was associated with God's action in the world and the lives of people. Jesus is using strong language to impress upon us the importance of taking responsibility for our spiritual growth. Do our relationships, choices, lifestyles, and loyalties reflect the seriousness of the call to spiritual maturity? If not, what can we do today to begin to put things right?

Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476). *"Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?"*

Friday, Oct 24, 2025

Read the signs

We're used to thinking about God as "hidden" or invisible, requiring an effort to perceive in the world around us, and one whom we will know fully only when we die. After all, doesn't Saint Paul say, "Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face"? But it's also true that signs of God, as Jesus said, lie everywhere and are as obvious as a cloud bringing rain or a hot wind promising warm weather. So be a meteorologist for God. The signs of Christ's presence are all around. Where do you see them?

Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477). *"You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"*

Saturday, Oct 25, 2025

Make God decisions

One of the choices life offers is whether to let God be part of your life. Of course, God is always present, within you and around you, but you can choose to ignore, shut out, or pretend God isn't there. Saint Paul called this "I don't need God attitude" living in "the flesh" and believed this illusion of self-sufficiency hid the road to death. Openness to the divine, though—to the power and Spirit of Christ—guides you to life in God. "If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness," advises Saint Charles Borromeo. Find some ways to choose God today.

Romans 8:1-11; Luke 13:1-9 (478). *"If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive because of righteousness."*

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



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