

Sunday, Oct 26, 2025

Be who you are

“Do you know who I am?” That’s the question maître d’s, hotel clerks, even arresting officers occasionally receive from the celebrated and powerful among us whose sense of privilege and entitlement gets the best of them. Contrast that with the question Jesus asks his disciples about the word on the street, “Who do they say I am?” When they answer, “The Messiah,” Jesus swears them to silence. In the words of the 20th-century monk Thomas Merton: “Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.” Strive each day to be who you really are: “The salt of the earth” (Matt. 13-14).

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14 (150). “Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness.”

Monday, Oct 27, 2025

How to keep it all straight

The synagogue leaders, upon seeing Jesus raise up a woman bent in two by years of infirmity, were indignant that Jesus had done this astonishing, good thing on the Sabbath, a day when it was forbidden to work. It seems that those who choose external compliance over compassion are more bent over—bent in upon themselves—than the woman whom Jesus bids, “Stand up.” Being a stand-up person sometimes means going against convention, expectation, and even laws. Choose a loving response even if it means bending the rules.

Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17 (479). “Ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day?”

Tuesday, Oct 28, 2025

Fight the good fight

The Zealots, of which the apostle Simon was a member, were the radical and militant resistance to the Roman military occupation of Palestine in the first century. Today we would call them insurgents. Though Jude likely did not belong to the Zealots, the devotion that bears his name today is one of the most zealously fervent in the church. Both Simon and Jude, then, join with us in fighting against the oppression that would take away our hope. To that end we are invited to join our resources with organizations like the National Shrine of St. Jude and the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital to help carry on the fight.

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). “He called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose.”

Wednesday, Oct 29, 2025

Narrow your focus

Jesus speaks of entering salvation through the “narrow door.” Other translations refer to it as the “narrow gate.” Walled portions of Jerusalem contained some gates that were so narrow it was said a person would have trouble passing through them carrying much with them. Perhaps this image can help us consider why the path to salvation involves a narrow passage—we can’t carry anything with us to the other side; it’s only us, shorn of our props and possessions, and God. “We must detach ourselves from all,” says

Saint John of God, “for the all who is Jesus Christ, and we must trust him alone.” It might be a good idea to begin detaching from those possessions now.

Romans 8:26-30; Luke 13:22-30 (481). “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter.”

Thursday, Oct 30, 2025

Everything leads back to the divine

For those times when God seems distant or absent, when people move through their day and don’t see signs of God anywhere, it’s easy to forget that God is behind it all. Yet even a world that feels more haunted rather than filled with God’s presence is still beloved creation—the expression of God’s overflowing love. A number of spiritual masters have suggested the practice of seeing God in all things. After all, if God really did create everything, it must be possible to find a string in every moment that leads back to the divine. Saint Paul, for one, was sure nothing in the universe could separate people from God. And why not? It all comes from the one who made it.

Romans 8:31b-39; Luke 13:31-35 (482). “What will separate us from the love of Christ?”

Friday, Oct 31, 2025

Keep the conversation going

Despite his differences with the Pharisees, Jesus never stopped interacting with them, even going so far as to dine with them. And if they were not particularly open to his message, they at least were impressed enough to share a meal with him and hear him out. In an age where public differences of opinion, played out in front of the ever-present media, seem to descend to the level of insult and demonization, consider breaking bread with someone with whom you disagree. Though you will not settle all your differences, you may strengthen the things you have in common and allow for the lines of communication to remain open.

Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6 (483). “On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees.”

Saturday, Nov 01, 2025

Shiny, happy people

Saints come from everywhere—small towns and big cities, local neighborhoods and faraway lands. They are men and women, old and young, laborers and professionals, humble folk and royalty. They wear medical uniforms, bishop miters, religious habits, worker shirts, farmer overalls, and beggar rags. They are the blessed of the gospel beatitudes, a word from the old Latin that means “happy.” One of them could be reading this page right now. It all depends on how blessedly happy you choose to be.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a (667). “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

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



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