

Sunday, Oct 05, 2025

Time is on your side

Time is one of the great mysteries of the human experience. It has many qualities and dimensions. There is the inexorable, relentless public time of clocks and calendars, schedules, and appointments. Then there is private time, the internal time of our thoughts and experiences. This kind of time is unique to each individual and, like a bird, alternates between flight and perching. When we are doing something we love or spending time with someone we care about, the minutes slow down and we experience something akin to God's time, the eternal now. In this dimension there is no pain or suffering, worry or anxiety; no fear of the future or regret for the past—all is well and on time. Spend a few moments in God's time today.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10 (141). *"If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."*

Monday, Oct 06, 2025

Get ready for your close-up

Who is my neighbor? A man learned in Israelite law posed this question to Jesus. He asked neither what a neighbor was, nor how to treat a neighbor. The law had taught him that much. Rather he sought to know whom he needed to love. "Love thy neighbor" is a rule easy to understand and accept intellectually. Yet when we are face to face with other people, we are much more prone to excuse ourselves from this obligation. Thus, the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote: "It's possible to love one's neighbor abstractly, and even occasionally from a distance, but hardly ever close up."

Try to see your neighbors in those faces most difficult to love.

Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461). *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself."*

Tuesday, Oct 07, 2025

Choose the better part

We all know the gospel story of Martha and her sister Mary of Bethany. During a visit from their friend Jesus, Martha got a little steamed because she was stuck with the cooking and serving while Mary got to sit at the Master's feet and listen to his words. Like many an aggrieved sibling before and since, she took her gripe to a higher authority, in this case Christ himself: "Tell her to help me." But note: Jesus responded with neither condemnation nor praise. He merely said that Mary had "chosen the better part"—in other words, Mary realized the importance of taking time out of the busyness of everyday life for hearing the words and teachings of the Lord. You can, too.

Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462). *"There is need of only one thing."*

Wednesday, Oct 08, 2025

More than words

Think about the Lord's Prayer: It sounds as if it's mostly about what God does, but it's just as much—maybe more—about what we are to do. "Hallowed by your name, your kingdom come" is not only praise of God but also a prayer for God's name to be known and God's kingdom to be fulfilled on Earth—both of which involve our cooperation. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those indebted to us" reminds us of the uncomfortable truth that scripture

proclaims loud and clear: God will forgive us to the extent we forgive one another. Next time you pray the Our Father, don't only say the words: Resolve to fulfill them.

Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463). *"Lord, teach us to pray."*

Thursday, Oct 09, 2025

A perfect example

Most of us who have children and all of us who were once children carry some regrets about the whole parenting process. Even the most devoted parents fall short. The good news is that love covers a multitude of flaws. When children know they are truly loved, they can forgive much. As Saint John Chrysostom advises, "If from the beginning we teach children to love true wisdom, they will have greater wealth and glory than riches can provide." Parenting will never be perfect, but love, humility, and a desire to lead children toward wisdom can go a long way. And for all our shortcomings, we can always look to the greatest parent of all, God, for guidance and grace.

Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464). *"How much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"*

Friday, Oct 10, 2025

Cast your demons out

Demons can make for great supernatural thrillers in the entertainment world, but they can also wreak havoc on our lives. We bump into them all the time—an unkind word, a sense of entitlement, a disparaging attitude toward ourselves or others. Our demons may not be the apocalyptic creatures of *The Walking Dead* or the latest "survival horror" video game, but they are very real and very deadly nonetheless. They can rob us of our conscience, of our God-given capacity to move toward the good, foster right relationships, and seek God always. What demons are you tangling with and how might you, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 385), be vigilant in shifting your focus to God and trusting in the "superabundance" of God's grace?

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465). *"Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house."*

Saturday, Oct 11, 2025

Blessed are those who share the Good News

One day a female follower of Jesus, apparently touched by his words, was moved to shout out a blessing on him: "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed," perhaps wishing that she herself should have such a son. Yet Jesus demurs and turns the blessing back upon her and all like her. While Jesus' mother and her womb are indeed blessed as we pray in the "Hail Mary," Jesus takes even greater delight in those of either gender who allow his words to take root in their hearts, their inmost being—those who keep that word alive by nourishing it and sharing it with others. Jesus blesses us for laboring and bringing the Good News to birth today.

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466). *"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."*

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



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