

Sunday, Nov 16, 2025

Here's some good news

If you pay attention to the news, it wouldn't be too much to think the world is going to you-know-where in a handbasket. Violence, crime, corruption, illness, poverty, ignorance, and plain old self-centeredness seem to rule the day. In Jesus' time some said those kinds of things were signs of the end of the world. Christ himself knew the list: "powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place." But he also urged caution: "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified . . . it will not immediately be the end." In other words, whatever is going on in the world, we are not to be afraid. We can trust in God and do what we can for the cause of goodness.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Malachi 3:19-20a; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19 (159).
"For you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays."

Monday, Nov 17, 2025

The royal treatment at its best

Not too many princesses looked beyond the walls of their palaces to notice the poor—the people who more than likely made up most of their realm. But Elizabeth of Hungary did. Married in 1221 to Louis of Thuringia, a pious husband, she lived simply and devoted herself to works of mercy even though she was the wife of a ruler. After the death of her husband in battle, she left court, arranged for the care of her three children, and associated herself with the Franciscans. She established a hospital and cared for the sick until her early death at the age of 24. The symbols of her sainthood include bread and a pitcher. May Elizabeth inspire us to provide a royal welcome to those in need with abundant charity.

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY,
RELIGIOUS
1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497). *"A blind man was sitting by the roadside begging He shouted, 'Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!'"*

Tuesday, Nov 18, 2025

No need to go out on a limb

Zacchaeus the tax collector is the only person in the gospels who has their height mentioned. But in the end, it is not for his smallness that Zacchaeus is remembered but the bigness, the boldness, and the determination of his desire to see Jesus and turn his life around. Doubtless Mr. Z.'s antics in climbing a tree got Jesus' attention, but what was really impressive was that desire for faith, so stunning that Jesus invites himself to the tax collector's house for dinner, bringing salvation along with him rather than a bottle of wine for the host. To get closer to Jesus we don't need to climb a tree but open the door from within to find Jesus eager to enter.

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

Wednesday, Nov 19, 2025

Frailty, thy name is not woman

Womanly is a word that too often has been used by our culture to suggest weakness or inadequacy. Worse, these negative connotations can sometimes lead to derision and oppression. Phrases such as "throws like a girl," though harmless-sounding, reflect this negativity. Yet when we look at the women around us, in the Bible, and in our Catholic tradition, we find women who exhibit a womanliness that is synonymous with courage, strength, boldness, and savvy. They have led countries, built schools and

hospitals, led people to God, and sacrificed their lives for what they believed in. Indeed, Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen said, "The history of civilization could actually be written in terms of the level of its women." Time to survey our own language to make sure it accurately reflects the nature and gifts of women.

2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499). *"Most admirable and worthy of everlasting remembrance was the mother."*

Thursday, Nov 20, 2025

Make a fast retreat

Gone on a retreat lately? Most areas have places to make retreats, often run by religious orders or dioceses. Retreats come in all shapes and sizes: individual or group, programmed or unstructured, a day or a week. You can use them to get back in touch with what's most important spiritually or just to get some rest. Going on a retreat, though, doesn't have to mean blocking out time, making a reservation, and hitting the road. One retreat you can always make is in the silence of your heart. "For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him," says Psalm 62:5. Wherever you are, you can take a few minutes each day to stop what you're doing, clear your mind, and place yourself in the silence of God.

1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500). *"Many who sought to live according to righteousness and religious custom went out into the desert to settle there."*

Friday, Nov 21, 2025

Shout out to Mary

While not recorded in the Bible, this day celebrates God's choice of Mary to play a role in salvation history and her presentation at the Temple as a child to be offered to God. Francis of Assisi celebrated Mary with his "Salutation of the Virgin," which includes these lovely acclamations of Mary: "Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen, God's Holy Mother Mary! You have been made the Virgin Church and chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven./ You has he consecrated with His most holy beloved Son and the Holy Spirit the Paraclete./ In You there has been, and is, all fullness of Grace, and all that is good." Honor Mary today by striving to live in the joy and fullness of God's good graces.

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501). *"There was great joy among the people."*

Saturday, Nov 22, 2025

Angels in our midst

Legend has it that Saint Cecilia (d. 117) wanted to dedicate her life to Christ as a virgin, but her parents married her to a Roman nobleman. She eventually converted her husband, Valerian, and his brother to Christianity by her belief in angels. "There is an angel who watches over me," she is said to have told her husband. When he asked to see the angel, Cecilia replied that he must be baptized first. Once baptized, Valerian witnessed an angel holding crowns of roses and lilies while Cecilia prayed. When Valerian's brother inquired about the flowers, he, too, desired to be baptized, and the brothers and Cecilia ministered to martyred Christians until their own martyrdom. Do you believe in angels? If so, you're not alone. According to a Baylor University study, 55 percent of respondents answered yes to the statement: "I was protected from harm by a guardian angel."

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, MARTYR
1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502). *"They can no longer die, for they are like angels."*

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



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