

Sunday, Nov 02, 2025

An endless supply of grace

When we pray the Hail Mary, we ask for the help of Mary our Mother at two crucial moments of our lives: “now, and at the hour of our death.” Now is an important occasion because it is the time of decision. The hour of our death is critical because it’s the last moment over which we exercise our will. When we pray for the dead, today and every day, we come to the spiritual assistance of those who can no longer help themselves. We can rest assured that one day the church will be supplying us with the same grace.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED (ALL SOULS’ DAY)

Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11; John 6:37-40 (668). *“The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.”*

Monday, Nov 03, 2025

An all-access party

In the neighborhood lives an elderly man who’s had a record five strokes. Each has taken a little piece of his ability and freedom away. He gets along with a small army of friends and assistants who come in a few hours at a time to care for him. But the one thing he really wants is to for someone to take him out to lunch. No one wants that responsibility. The inconvenience of lifting a disabled fellow in and out of a car seems too great. When Jesus throws a banquet, however, folks like that elderly neighbor are at the top of the list. That is why great spiritual masters, such as Saint Benedict, place special emphasis on attending to the infirm. Saint Benedict writes in his *Rule*: “Care of the sick must rank above and before all else.” Why? Because Jesus said, “What you did for one of these least, you did for me.”

Romans 11:29-36; Luke 14:12-14 (485). *“When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.”*

Tuesday, Nov 04, 2025

Spirited actions

As the Council of Trent tried to reform questionable practices in the church, Borromeo believed that if laypeople were being asked to uphold a higher moral standard, clergy needed to set the example and renew their apostolic spirit. He gave generously from church wealth to charity, and during the plague and famine that struck Milan in 1576, while civil authorities fled and to the detriment of his own health, Borromeo stayed and ministered to the sick and dying, borrowing large sums of money that required years to repay. Every generation is called to renew that same apostolic spirit. What does your service to the gospel look like?

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES BORROMEO, BISHOP

Romans 12:5-16ab; Luke 14:15-24 (486). *“We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them.”*

Wednesday, Nov 05, 2025

Negatives outweighed

When Jesus talks about being his disciple, he warns us that the road will be difficult and rocky. Instead of looking at Christ’s words in a negative way, consider what is driving you toward discipleship in the first place. As Saint John Paul II explains: “It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.” Call to mind the

positive effects of your discipleship—true happiness, joy, and peace—during the hard roads you will travel on your spiritual journey.

Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33 (487). *“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”*

Thursday, Nov 06, 2025

Join the search party

Scripture speaks of the rejoicing that goes on in heaven when a lost soul is found. Apparently, God does not like to lose. As Pope Francis put it: “God is not a good loser.” God will search for us. “God has a certain loving weakness for those who are furthest away, who are lost,” says Francis, who goes on to say in a 2013 sermon that when God brings the lost sheep back to the fold, we shouldn’t say, “you are lost,” but rather that “you are one of us,” because this returns “dignity to the lost sheep.” The world is filled with lost souls; what is needed is a larger supply of those willing to join the search party. Start with a prayer for the sake of one person, which may end up saving a multitude of others.

Romans 14:7-12; Luke 15:1-10 (488). *“Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.”*

Friday, Nov 07, 2025

Fill in the gaps

We humans are hard-wired to focus our attention on the object in front of us: the oncoming car, the apples we are slicing for pie, the words on a page. Yet also worthy of our notice is the space between those things, which is captured in the German term *Zwischenraum*. *Zwischenraum* refers to the interval between objects or concepts: the gaps between the pickets of a fence, the bare branches of a winter tree, the pauses in music or conversation. These spaces often go unnoticed, yet they are essential. They give form to what surrounds them and shape our perception by offering contrast. Learning to notice the *Zwischenraum* can help us remember that we often only focus on part of the truth of our lives. If we pay close attention, we may begin to glimpse the profound reality that holds all things together and creates meaning: the presence of God.

Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8 (489). *“Those who have never been told of him shall see.”*

Saturday, Nov 08, 2025

Who or what is at your service?

The Gospel of Luke often treats money with suspicion, likely because of how easily it can be accumulated and used to exploit others. But not entirely. As Saint John Chrysostom instructs: “Wealth and poverty are neither good nor evil in themselves. They become either good or evil from the will of those who use them.” Every Christian must ask themselves how they value money. Is it your master? Or is God your master? “If you use your wealth for the purposes of philanthropy,” says Saint John, “the thing becomes the foundation of good. But if you use it for robbery, greed and insolence, you turn the use of it to the direct opposite.” Take time today to consider how you make and spend money and whether your actions ultimately serve God’s purposes.

Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16:9-15 (490). *“You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

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



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