

Sunday, Nov 23, 2025

A real power move

Power seems cool to possess—from a distance. You can do anything with enough of it: Order people around; get your way; make money, squander it, and get more. Those with worldly power are seemingly invincible—every comfort, security, and cure is theirs for the taking. That's why the crowds around the cross mock Jesus as a phony. If he really had juice, why is he hanging up there? What they failed to appreciate is the divine use of authority: not for self-preservation, but poured out for the sake of others. Think differently. Think love.

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43 (162). *"If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."*

Monday, Nov 24, 2025

A model of endurance

Vietnam has had a thriving Catholic faith rooted there since the 17th century, a faith so strong that it produced 117 Vietnamese martyrs whom we remember today, all beatified and canonized between 1900 and 1951. In 1989 three American archbishops visited that country and said upon their return that in spite of the horrors of the war "the church in Vietnam is alive and vigorous . . . living out the gospel in a difficult and complex situation with remarkable persistence and strength." Holding to the faith in peaceful times is a challenge and is even more so during conflicts and persecutions. We may learn from Saint Andrew and his many companions what it means to live in patient endurance.

MEMORIAL OF ANDREW DŨNG-LẠC, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503). *"And so they entered the king's service."*

Tuesday, Nov 25, 2025

Think less; love more

We're nearing the end of the liturgical year, so a fair number of lectionary scripture passages this month urge us to see with the eyes of faith. We are to look beyond what is right in front of us and know this: What we see with our eyes and hear with our ears is only part of reality—and not necessarily the most interesting or important part at that. Storms may come, but they are not what we should give our attention to. "The important thing," says Saint Teresa of Ávila, "is not to think much but to love much; and so do that which best stirs you to love." Only then will we begin the work of creating heaven on Earth.

Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504). *"Awesome sights and mighty signs will come."*

Wednesday, Nov 26, 2025

Share and share alike

Numbered, weighed, and divided: That's how God intends to deal with the assets of the unjust in the day of judgment, according to the Book of Daniel. But you can ward off a similar fate by numbering, weighing, and dividing your own resources in the direction of the common good. Almsgiving isn't only for Lent but can be a useful way to keep your heart open to the disadvantaged every week of the year. "The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction," says Saint Leo the Great, "is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will, but also with the gift of peace." And almsgiving isn't reserved for only those with means, as Saint Leo explains: "In the matter of almsgiving not

only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts." Now is the time to survey your resources and share a measured amount with those in need.

Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505). *"Give your presents to someone else."*

Thursday, Nov 27, 2025

Table your differences

Despite the rosy-colored rendition in childhood schoolbooks, not all was peaceful among the first settlers of Plymouth Colony. The passengers aboard the Mayflower were divided into camps based on differences over religion. Knowing they would face a test of survival upon landing, the rival groups were able to patch things up well enough by signing the Mayflower Compact in 1620 and adopting a common identity as Pilgrims. A year later they gave thanks to God and the Wampanoag people for helping them survive. This holiday season look for a way to patch up whatever differences might divide you from others around the Thanksgiving table.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Sirach 50:22-24; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Luke 17:11-19 (943-947). *"May he grant you joy of heart and may peace abide among you."*

Friday, Nov 28, 2025

What a wonderful world

Every age has its own particular mindset through which the people view their world. Our 21st-century perspective could be called "scientific." Whatever we can see with our eyes and measure with our instruments, we believe. Eight hundred years ago the prevailing attitude was "wonder." In the Middle Ages all of creation was viewed as a symbol. It was a book in which every living thing was a word charged with meaning. The faithful were called to look through the visible to the invisible and, by reading nature, read the thoughts of God. Our amazing and helpful advances in science sometimes come at the expense of wonder. Today, pray to the Holy Spirit for the gift of wonder and awe.

Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507). *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."*

Saturday, Nov 29, 2025

Don't get caught by surprise

There's that part of the Mass during the "Our Father" when the priest says, "... As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." Does it ever occur to us that the "coming of our Savior" could mean the moment when we die? When our mortal lives end and our world passes away, all that will be left is the eternal, the ever-presence of God. If we live as though there is only this present life, then the Lord's coming will catch us by surprise and frighten us. But if we're waiting in joyful hope, the day of the Lord's coming is not a dreaded event and will mean divine fullness. As Saint John Paul II advises: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." Keep hope alive.

Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 (508). *"Be vigilant at all times."*

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



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