

**Sunday, Sep 28, 2025**

### Who's on your doorstep?

Long-standing images of the fires of hell owe much to the vivid description of the afterlife contained in a gospel story. A rich man (later sometimes named Dives) suffers tormenting flames after death because he ignored poor Lazarus on his doorstep throughout his life. Medieval artists loved to illustrate the story because of its drama and visual potential. But beneath all the fire and brimstone lies a clear and direct message: Living only for one's own wealth and comfort leads to a living hell. If we hope to rest in the bosom of Abraham, we need to pay attention to the Lazarus waiting at our doorstep.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31 (138). *"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad."*

**Monday, Sep 29, 2025**

### Choose your side

The Bible sometimes reads like a chapter from Dungeons and Dragons. In the apocalyptic passages of Daniel and the Book of Revelation we meet serpents, angels, ancient ones, prophets, and warriors. These characters are set against a backdrop of fire, war, struggle, truth, and deceit. Such images paint a picture of a God who takes sides. In reality the world is deeply interconnected, one in which we can see the human suffering on all sides of violent conflict. What image of God can convey the truth that God is for everyone? Or more to the point, how can we refocus our vision to understand that there are no sides but God's?

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL,  
ARCHANGELS

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; John 1:47-51 (647). *"War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon."*

**Tuesday, Sep 30, 2025**

### Savor these words

Saint Jerome, brilliant biblical scholar, patron of librarians and translators, was fascinated by the meaning of words. Unlike many translators of his day, he favored use of what modern scripture-scholar Father Leslie Hoppe, O.F.M. calls "dynamic equivalence." That is, Jerome sought to translate texts from their original Hebrew and Greek "sense for sense" rather than "word for word." Jerome's contributions to Catholics' understanding of the Bible are unsurpassed. But perhaps his most significant contribution was simply his love of the word. Spend some time today savoring the words and struggling with the meaning of scripture.

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). *"Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?"*

**Wednesday, Oct 01, 2025**

### Spiritual bouquet

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, known as the "Little Flower," is one of the most popular saints, owing to her inspirational simplicity. She spent almost a decade of her short life cloistered as a Carmelite nun expressing her thoughts in writings that were eventually shared with the world. "Love proves itself by deeds," she wrote, "so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers

are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love." Scatter some flowers of loving deeds in honor of this great saint.

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS,  
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457). *"No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."*

**Thursday, Oct 02, 2025**

### You've got a friend

Joan Wester Anderson has been writing about angels since 1989 after her son was mysteriously rescued from a devastating snow storm on Christmas Eve. That experience resulted in her first book of true stories of remarkable encounters with angels, *Where Angels Walk*. Since then, she has written many more books on the subject, and all of them offer spine-tingling, inspiring tales of ordinary people who have been rescued, healed, comforted, and sheltered by heavenly visitors. These amazing stories make the case that every one of us has a guardian angel. That's a proposition the church itself has made from the earliest times. Biblical scholar and Doctor of the Church Saint Jerome posited: "So valuable to heaven is the dignity of the human soul that every member of the human race has a guardian angel from the moment the person begins to be." It's nice to know we're not alone.

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (458/650). *"Their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."*

**Friday, Oct 03, 2025**

### Models of what's possible

The biblical towns of Tyre and Sidon might bring to mind some modern-day big cities: prosperous, bustling, cosmopolitan—and spiritually hungry. Early in Jesus' ministry people from these distant port cities heard about the things Jesus was doing, and, though they were in some sense outsiders, they responded with more enthusiasm than many of those who were closer to Jesus. Jesus held up these "pagan" cities as models of what is possible when people express a genuine desire for spiritual nourishment. Respond to the gospel with enthusiasm, and your spirit will be rewarded.

Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). *"It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you."*

**Saturday, Oct 04, 2025**

### Do what you need to do

If Saint Francis of Assisi knew that his band of brother-beggars would one day be called Franciscans, he'd probably laugh, or sigh. He never set himself up as a model. Indeed, he admonished his brothers: "We ought to be ashamed of ourselves; the saints endured but we who are servants of God try to win honor and glory by recounting and making known what they have done." Good deeds are ours to do, according to Francis. At the end of his life, he made that point abundantly clear: "I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours to do." Time to get doing.

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS

Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460). *"Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."*

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



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