

Sunday, Aug 10, 2025

A gift you can bank on

With so much emphasis on work and consumption in American culture, it is easy to fall into the trap of believing that “you are what you earn.” This attitude creates a lot of anxiety, leaving us constantly worried about our financial worth and feeling devalued if our “earning power” drops or if we are not part of the wage economy. Jesus offers a different vision when he assures us that God is pleased to give us the Kingdom. There is nothing to earn here, nothing to be gained, nothing to be lost. Our self-worth is a freely given gift of our Creator. Bank on it!

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 18:6-9; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12; Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40 (117). *“Do not be afraid . . . for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.”*

Monday, Aug 11, 2025

Keep it simple

Isn't it amazing how much stuff we collect in our lives? You move into a house or an apartment with a few things and you think you've got plenty of room. But within a short period of time, you've got no place left to put all of it. Saint Clare didn't have that problem. Although from a wealthy family, she embraced a life of strict and total poverty, possessing absolutely nothing for the sake of the joy that comes with possessing only Christ. And joyful she was for nearly 40 years, so much so that she was declared a saint only two years after she died. “We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become,” advises Clare. Striving toward holiness and sainthood? Start with a little simple living.

MEMORIAL OF CLARE

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Matthew 17:22-27 (413). *“He is your glory, he, your God.”*

Tuesday, Aug 12, 2025

Live Jesus in good times and bad

Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, who founded the Visitation Sisters in France 400 years ago, suffered years of interior anguish and spiritual dryness. Her contemporary, Saint Francis de Sales, said of her struggles: “For all that suffering her face never lost its serenity, nor did she once relax in the fidelity God asked of her. And so I regard her as one of the holiest souls I have ever met on this earth.” Her way of enduring through difficult times reflects the order's motto: “Live Jesus.” Whatever your inner struggle, hold fast to your faith and your holiness will shine through.

MEMORIAL OF JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, RELIGIOUS

Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414). *“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.”*

Wednesday, Aug 13, 2025

Forgiveness ever available

What may be one of the strangest reconciliations in church history occurred between Pontian and Hippolytus. Pontian became pope in 235 A.D.—just in time for the Roman persecution of Christians. He spent most of his reign as a slave in the mines of Sardinia. Hippolytus, who was at odds with the papacy, got the idea to have his followers name him pope. But he was swept up in the same persecution that netted Pontian. Now both in prison, Hippolytus repented to the true pope, Pontian, and Pontian reconciled him to the church. As today's two saints came to know, forgiveness is always possible, no matter the circumstances. For as Hippolytus

notes: “Christ is easily found by those who live by faith and to those of pure eye and holy heart, who desire to knock at the door, he opens immediately.”

MEMORIAL OF PONTIAN, POPE, AND HIPPOLYTUS, PRIEST, MARTYRS

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20 (415). *“Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

Thursday, Aug 14, 2025

When compromise is not an option

Maximilian Kolbe was a Franciscan friar who offered his life to save that of a stranger sentenced to die in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Canonized in 1982, he also was honored in 1998 as one of ten 20th-century Christian martyrs commemorated with statues over Westminster Abbey in London. The martyrs represent victims of religious persecution and oppression worldwide. “There has never been a time in Christian history when someone, somewhere, has not died rather than compromise with the powers of oppression, tyranny, and unbelief,” said the Rev. Dr. Anthony Harvey, sub-dean of Westminster, when the statues were unveiled in 1998. They responded when their faith was tested. Can we do the same?

MEMORIAL OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR

Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21-19:1 (416). *“How often must I forgive?”*

Friday, Aug 15, 2025

Every body deserves respect

Assumption is a teaching about the Mother of God, but this dogma has much to say about all of us. It affirms the dignity of our bodies and how God is mindful of every hair on our heads. In an era when the idea of the human person is continually under assault—from the arena of public policy to the refugee camps and killing fields of war—Mary's Assumption is a divine response to our deepest fears as well as our greatest hopes about the fate of our bodies. “Mary is assumed into heaven: small and humble,” said Pope Saint John Paul II. “She, a human creature, one of us, attains eternity in soul and body. And there she awaits us as a mother waits for her children to come home.” Honor your body and the bodies of others in ways that would make your Mother Mary proud.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56 (622). *“So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.”*

Saturday, Aug 16, 2025

Practice patience on everyone

In the year 2000 Hungarians celebrated the 1,000th anniversary of the founding of their country by Saint Stephen, who not only created one nation out of numerous tribes but also made it Christian. Though Stephen had already been canonized by the Roman Church centuries before, to mark the millennium, the Eastern Orthodox Church also canonized him—an unprecedented gesture endorsed by Pope Saint John Paul II, who emphasized the need for Christians more than ever to work together. Stephen's admonitions to his son Emeric include the words: “Be merciful to all who are suffering violence . . . Be patient with everyone, not only with the powerful, but also with the weak.” Spare a little more patience for the weakest and strongest in your own life.

MEMORIAL OF STEPHEN OF HUNGARY

Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15 (418). *“Let the children come to me.”*

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



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