

**Sunday, Jul 13, 2025**

### **For the love of God**

What would happen if you and a whole bunch of other people really took to heart these words of scripture: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself”? What, in other words, would be the result if you and I and lots of others put God first in our lives? There would be mutual respect between people. The love of God would be lived out. Violence would disappear. No one would lack what they need. It sounds too good to be true, but with God all things are possible. Do your part and give it your all.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37 (105). *“Return to the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul.”*

**Monday, Jul 14, 2025**

### **Fight violence with a secret weapon**

One look at the daily news reminds us: It’s a cold, cruel world out there. Innocence is slaughtered every day. The harshness of the world can make us tough, self-protecting, and cold at the center: “Not my job. Not my problem.” But the violence of our generation really is our problem, and the job of responding to it can only be ours. We have one great weapon in the war against cruelty. Today, unwrap the gift of kindness. Use it liberally, especially with those who “trespass against you.”

Exodus 1:8-14, 22; Matthew 10:34-11:1 (389). *“Pharaoh then commanded all his subjects, ‘Throw into the river every boy that is born to the Hebrews.’”*

**Tuesday, Jul 15, 2025**

### **Small mercies**

You know the story: Pharaoh ordered all the male Hebrew children to be cast into the Nile to check the burgeoning Israelite population. One mother followed his command but with a twist: Trying to save her little boy, she floated him out onto the river in a basket. Pharaoh’s daughter, at the river to bathe, saw the little boat, gave the baby back to the mother, whom she paid to nurse and raise the child, until she was able to adopt the child as her own. She called him Moses, which means “drawn out.” A tragic tale for the rest of the unlucky babies, but also one that shows how God’s care shows itself in small ways. Where are the little signs of God’s love floating through your life?

Exodus 2:1-15a; Matthew 11:20-24 (390). *“She called him Moses; for she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’”*

**Wednesday, Jul 16, 2025**

### **Your attention, please**

You’re not looking for God in the supermarket. You don’t expect to see God in traffic. You don’t usually have a religious experience while doing homework, standing in line at the bank, eating cereal, or watching TV. In the same way Moses was most certainly not expecting to have a divine encounter at work the day of his first encounter with God, during another monotonous shift keeping an eye on the sheep. Yet when he climbed up to see that now-famous burning bush, God was waiting for him. Look more closely: Could that be God trying to get your attention?

Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12; Matthew 11:25-27 (391). *“Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”*

**Thursday, Jul 17, 2025**

### **We’ve been introduced**

It makes a difference whether you know someone’s name. To be introduced to a person involves learning their name. It puts you on personal terms. That’s true even when it comes to God. When Moses asked God who he should say sent him, God says to tell them, “I AM sent me to you.” Jesus, too, refers to himself as “I am” in the Gospel of John. We believe in a God who we can know on an intimate, personal level. Don’t be afraid to call God by name. You’ve already been introduced and on a first-name basis long before the day you were born.

Exodus 3:13-20; Matthew 11:28-30 (392). *“This is what you shall tell the children of Israel: I AM sent me to you.”*

**Friday, Jul 18, 2025**

### **Image adjustment**

The Bible is replete with various images of God, from God as a judge and executor (Exodus 12:12) to God as a woman baking bread (Matthew 13:33). Often these images seem contradictory—a violent God killing firstborn children versus a God who nourishes with patience and care. Frequently these likenesses are used to describe a perceived attribute of God. What images describe your experience of God? If loving, just, and merciful don’t come to mind, perhaps it’s time to get to know God better. Scripture is a good place to start.

Exodus 11:10-12:14; Matthew 12:1-8 (393). *“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”*

**Saturday, Jul 19, 2025**

### **No time to wait**

There are few things more Jewish than matzo, and nothing more Catholic than the Eucharist. In both cases it’s odd to remember that the unleavened bread was purely unintentional. The bread was flat on the day of the great Passover because there was simply no time for it to rise. God doesn’t mind making use of what’s available, no matter how untimely it seems to us. God chose a young girl, Mary, not yet married, to be the mother of the world’s great passover from sin, Jesus. When it comes to salvation, why wait?

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Exodus 12:37-42; Matthew 12:14-21 (394). *“Since the dough they had brought out of Egypt was not leavened, they baked it into unleavened loaves.”*

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



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