

Sunday, Jun 14, 2026

Get on God's good list

At county fairs there always seems to be a stand where someone offers to write your name on a grain of rice. As novel a proposition as that is, perhaps there are better places to have our names inscribed. Scripture mentions a "Book of Life" eight times. It's described as the registry of the just—a desirable place to be listed. Martyrdom is one sure way to make the registry and promoting the gospel is another. Simply put, live for Christ and bring Jesus to others, and you'll find your name in the book.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 19:2-6a; Romans 5:6-11; Matthew 9:36—10:8 (91).

"The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew."

Monday, Jun 15, 2026

Cost analysis

In the Old Testament, Queen Jezebel's sniveling husband, Ahab, wanted the vine grower Naboth's land. Naboth became an annoyance, disposable as a dead battery. Having Naboth eliminated worked for Jezebel. No problem. She may have taken getting an edge over the competition to an extreme, yet it is still something drummed into our heads. It seems that everyone—from corporate CEOs to athletes to politicians—will do just about anything to win. But the goal for Christians is not winning—but loving—at all costs.

1 Kings 21:1-16; Matthew 5:38-42 (365). *"When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well."*

Tuesday, Jun 16, 2026

Know thy enemy

It may surprise you, but the saint so renowned for his "Peace Prayer" once fought in a war. So when Saint Francis of Assisi says, "You have no enemy except yourselves," you can't help but think an ex-soldier should know something about enemy ways. Though Francis didn't write the "Peace Prayer," it reflects his teachings and covers many ways we can be the enemy—or peacemakers instead. One is "Seek not to be . . . understood as to understand." Francis learned this the day he stopped to embrace a leper rather than simply tossing him some coins. We associate enemies with the emotion of hate, but as Francis learned, a formidable enemy is our own fear.

1 Kings 21:17-29; Matthew 5:43-48 (366). *"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

Wednesday, Jun 17, 2026

Left holding the mantle

When the prophet Elijah left this world in a whirlwind, his departure was less about the spectacle and more about what he left behind: a master's mantle and a "double share" of his spirit. Jesus took the grand exit even further by dying and rising again before ascending into heaven. Though we may feel a bit slightly abandoned at times, like Elijah, Jesus left us with his Spirit, which he assures us will empower us to do the things he did "and greater besides"—not walking on water or changing water to wine but "righteous deeds," acts of compassion, justice, and forgiveness. Pick up the master's mantle and wear it well.

2 Kings 2:1, 6-14; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (367). *"Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind."*

Thursday, Jun 18, 2026

Your very own prayer

Prayer. We know it's important, we're drawn to it, but we're not always quite sure what we are doing. Jesus gives us examples of prayer throughout the gospels, including what we call "The Lord's Prayer." We know the words, but do we know this prayer by heart—that is, do we tune into our relationship with God when we give voice to this prayer? Do we look to see whether we've allowed our relationship with God to flow into all aspects of our daily life? Pray Jesus' prayer slowly, savoring each word. Or try praying a different translation or your own version of the prayer to spark your imagination. Make this beautiful prayer truly your own.

Sirach 48:1-14; Matthew 6:7-15 (368). *"In praying, do not babble like the pagans."*

Friday, Jun 19, 2026

What are you looking at?

The monastic discipline of "custody of the eyes," which originally was promoted as an aid to chaste living, encouraged averting the eyes from objects and images that might incite lust, vanity, or covetousness. Such a spiritual practice would serve us well in this age of total media exposure, greed, and graphic representations of sex and violence. If the eyes are the windows to the soul, then we need to protect what gets filtered in. Garbage in, garbage out applies to spiritual lives as much as to our technical lives. Make sure the data you process each day is restorative and life-giving. Be mindful that where your eye wanders, there your heart may soon follow.

2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Matthew 6:19-23 (369). *"If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light."*

Saturday, Jun 20, 2026

As you sow, so shall you reap

"If we are rushed for time, sow time and we will reap time," Dorothy Day wrote in her memoir *The Long Loneliness*. "Go to church and spend a quiet hour in prayer. You will have more time than ever and your work will get done. Sow time with the poor. Sit and listen to them, give your time lavishly. You will reap time a hundredfold. Sow kindness and you will reap kindness. Sow love, you will reap love." How many of us would try to cope with our busy schedules by actually taking time for something not on our to-do lists? Today's lesson compliments of Dorothy Day: Trust that God will multiply the time we invest in prayer, love, and generosity into a great harvest.

2 Chronicles 24:17-25; Matthew 6:24-34 (370). *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."*

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



© 2026 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Sign up for free daily email available at [TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe](https://www.TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe).