

Sunday, Jun 15, 2025

Everything, everywhere, all at once

One of scripture's more powerful messages is that God knows creation literally from the inside out—having created it, that's not surprising!—and has had this intimate relationship since the beginning. Perhaps one of the most beautiful expressions of that sentiment is found in Psalm 139. God is everywhere: "Where can I go from your spirit? . . . For you formed my inmost being; knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:7, 13). Today's celebration of the Holy Trinity reminds us of our rootedness in this God: the Father who created everything, the Son who shows us the Father, and the Spirit who teaches and guides. Join the psalmist in praying, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made!"

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15 (166). *"When the Lord established the heavens I was there."*

Monday, Jun 16, 2025

Go the distance

"There's no time like the present" may sound like a cliché, but it carries deep spiritual wisdom. Few in Christian tradition embodied that urgency more than Saint Paul, whose tireless efforts to spread the gospel laid the foundation of the Early Church. Estimates suggest that Paul traveled nearly 14,000 miles—much of it on foot or by sea, often in dangerous and uncomfortable conditions. Though he dreaded certain journeys, he never let fear or fatigue deter him from his mission. How many miles are you willing to walk—not just physically, but spiritually—to draw closer to God?

There's no time like the present to take that first step.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 5:38-42 (365). *"Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

Tuesday, Jun 17, 2025

This message is for you

The problem with famous words is that their very familiarity can breed indifference. It's one thing to know Jesus' commandment to love our enemies. It's quite another to realize Jesus is speaking to us. We are the ones who are called to love and forgive others: an insensitive brother-in-law, a conniving co-worker, or a difficult neighbor. While in theory forgiveness sometimes seems very hard, it is only when we extend our hand in reconciliation that we realize nothing is as wonderfully freeing as forgiveness and nothing leads as directly to peace and harmony. We learn that it is not for God's sake, or for the sake of our enemies, that we forgive. It is for ourselves. "It is," says Saint Augustine, "by this that what has been lost, and was found, is saved from being lost again." Do yourself a favor and forgive an enemy or two.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Matthew 5:43-48 (366). *"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

Wednesday, Jun 18, 2025

Give from your abundance

We shouldn't be surprised that, from time to time, a pastor must appeal for support from the congregation. Money is the lifeblood of the ministry of service. Without it, everything grinds to a halt. And much of that money has to come from the pockets of parishioners. God provides us with blessings in abundance so that we may be generous with our time, talent, and, yes, our pocketbook as well. The U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference weighs in on the issue, saying that: "All Christian stewards must consider prayerfully the gifts they have received from God, and

they should make a decision (in advance from the "first fruits" instead of what is left over after obligations have been met) about what will be given." Share in the good work of your parish by giving generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (367). *"You are being enriched in every way for all generosity."*

Thursday, Jun 19, 2025

God's gift to you

When Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, he begins, "Our Father." These two words, along with those that follow, have become so familiar to us that we can easily overlook how revolutionary they were, and are. As the early Christian thinker Origen (185-254) notes in his commentary on Jesus' prayer, nowhere does scripture set a precedent for calling on God as one's father. These words from Jesus, then, are a pure gift—they are at once completely undeserved and unexpected. Jesus' sharing of his sonship with his followers joins us to a circle of family. His gift is one of nearness and intimacy. Today, say the words "Our Father" aloud and be mindful of this gift.

2 Corinthians 11:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (368). *"This is how you are to pray: 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.'"*

Friday, Jun 20, 2025

Treasure the moment

It's a Friday in summer, hooray! The beach, ballpark, and backyard all beckon. Summer urges us to slow down and savor simple pleasures. Not only will we feel better, we will be better. Rest, relaxation, and retreat help us to absorb the sights and sounds around us and appreciate the people and things in our lives more. We are quicker to laugh, to love, to forgive, to give thanks. These are the treasures that have everlasting value. Heed the Roman poet Ovid's advice: "Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop."

2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30; Matthew 6:19-23 (369). *"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."*

Saturday, Jun 21, 2025

Don't worry, you have backup

The singer-songwriter Bill Withers got it right when he sang, "Lean on me, when you're not strong. And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on." There are times when we doubt, are afraid, and experience pain and suffering, as well as times of joy and triumph. All these experiences are possible because God gives us free will. The key to the big choices in life is to depend on God. And when it comes to the everyday worries, Saint Francis de Sales advises us: "Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day."

2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Matthew 6:24-34 (370). *"Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself."*

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



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