



Ministry of Praise

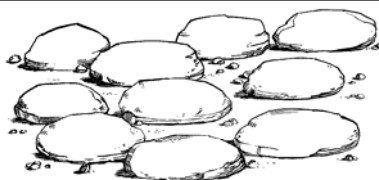
27 September
~ 3 October

Weekly Intentions:

~That the prayer and worship of the Church may inspire her members to live their faith more fully each day.

~That the pope, bishops, priests and religious may be encouraged by the Spirit as they teach all people around the world.

~That Christians everywhere will embrace their call to seek greater justice in the world, where the life, dignity and rights of the born and unborn are respected and defended.



WHOEVER IS NOT AGAINST
US IS FOR US.

MK 9:40

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Universal acceptance

Religious traditions have a funny habit of condemning all other traditions. It wasn't that long ago that Catholics consigned all Protestants to hell, and vice versa. Some of us can even remember when it was considered a *sin* for parishioners of the Irish church to go across the street to the Italian church, or the Polish church, or the German church, or whatever the *other* church was. But Jesus taught extraordinary tolerance and acceptance of everyone of good will. We embrace our faith, but not to the rejection of Jews, Muslims, other Christians, or even nonbelievers. We're all in this together.
TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

FEAST OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR

A legend in our own time

Legend surrounds the brief life of Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia (907-935), originally venerated because of his martyrdom but most remembered today because of a Christmas carol from the 16th century that celebrated him as a model of generosity. Separating fact from fiction may be difficult after 1,000 years, but your own track record with regard to generosity should be easier to tally. Will anyone sing praises of your generosity a millennium from now? A hundred years? Ten minutes after you are gone? If not, what can you do today to start building your own lasting legacy?
TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah*

8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Which side is God on?

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 shows love by crushing the enemies of God's people. This is a God who takes sides. Such images may shock us because we tend not to associate God's love with violence or conflict. We live in a world that is deeply interconnected, one in which we can see the human suffering on all sides as a result of violent conflict. What images of God are needed today? What image might we have when we consider that God is on everybody's side?

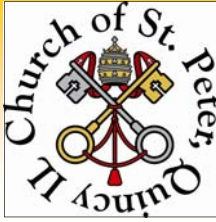
TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

**FEAST OF JEROME, PRIEST,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Wise talk

A 98-year-old woman recently expressed surprise at the tone of modern public discourse. All the antagonism, accusation, and aggression! "After a century, you learn there are no sides to take," she reflected, "no divisions, no right and wrong people. You just see people. You just hear their fear." Saint Jerome agreed that respecting the hu-



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“Whoever is not
against us is for us.”

“War broke out in
heaven; Michael and
his angels fought
against the dragon.”

“The least among all of
you is the greatest.”

“Let the dead bury
their own dead; but as
for you, go and pro-
claim the kingdom of
God.”

“Other disciples . . . he
sent ahead of him in
pairs.”

“Take care that you do
not despise one of these
little ones; for, I tell
you, their angels con-
tinually see the face of
my Father in heaven.”



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Communications

manity of others is key. He noted:
“Where there is no honor, there is con-
tempt; where there is contempt, insult is
frequent; where there is insult, there is
indignation; where there is indignation,
there is no rest.” Want peace? Start with
respect.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Nehemiah 2:1-8;*
Luke 9:57-62

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 FEAST OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Walk with me

Today we honor Saint Thérèse of
Lisieux, beloved for her “Little Way,”
which has encouraged countless
“ordinary people” doing ordinary things
on the road to sanctity. Thérèse lived in a
Carmelite convent with her older sister
Pauline, who was “like a second
mother,” Thérèse wrote. Pauline was
with Thérèse throughout her brief life,
illness, and death at the tender age of 24.
It is no accident that Jesus sent out his
disciples in pairs. Having a spiritual
companion, as Thérèse did, can be of
great help and comfort on the sometimes
difficult spiritual journey. Cultivate spiri-
tual friendships in your own life.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:1-4a,*
5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS Saved by an angel

Joan Wester Anderson has been writ-
ing about angels since 1989 after her son
was mysteriously rescued from a devas-
tating 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 and that we are constantly being
guided, guarded, and protected by these
messengers from God.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Baruch 1:15-22;*
Matthew 18:1-5, 10

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 Crossing the bridge

A prayer of Jesus recorded in all three
synoptic gospels catches him in a kind of
ecstasy, thrilled that the gulf between
God and humanity is being bridged, and
he is the bridge! Jesus acknowledges that
“no one knows the Father but the Son,”
which is certainly wonderful for Jesus,
but if it were left there we’d still be on
the outside looking in. Then comes that
little word—“and.” No one knows God
but Jesus himself, “and anyone to whom
the Son wishes to reveal him.” That’s us!
Jesus’ whole mission was to show us
both who God is (loving Parent) and
what God is like (full of justice and
mercy). Jesus looks at the likes of you
and me and says, “Blessed are the eyes
that see what you see, the ears that hear
what you hear.” We’re blessed indeed
when we look to Jesus to show us, again
and again, who God really is.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Baruch 4:5-12, 27-*
29; Luke 10:17-24