

Sunday, Oct 04, 2026

They'll know us by our respect

We know Christians are to love others. Whether it's Jesus telling people to love God with all their souls, hearts, and minds and their neighbor as themselves or Saint John saying God is love, it is clear love is at the center of living one's faith. Love for all is not the intimate love we share with family, spouses, and close friends. No one can love everybody in that way. No, the essence of Christian love is respect for the life and dignity of all human beings.

Christians are often ridiculed for such respect, particularly when it concerns vulnerable or marginalized lives, such as babies in the womb; disabled, elderly, and poor people; undocumented workers; prisoners; addicts; or even our sworn enemies. But our love for even the least of our brothers and sisters is what sets Christians apart. Show that love today on Respect Life Sunday, and every day.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139). *"By the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes."*

Monday, Oct 05, 2026

Don't fence love in

"Hear, O Israel," says a famous Jewish prayer, taken from the Book of Deuteronomy, "... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." Sound familiar? How about this, from the Book of Leviticus: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." As you can see, the Christian teaching to love God with all your being and to love your neighbor as yourself was not new. What was new was the messenger: Jesus. And right before the "love your neighbor" quote, the Old Testament says, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people." Christ, however, made it clear that love wasn't meant only for your own people. "Your neighbor" is everyone.

Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37 (461). *"Because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"*

Tuesday, Oct 06, 2026

The better part?

There's probably no other gospel story that infuriates women quite as much as the one we read today about Martha and her sister Mary. Invariably, the argument goes something like this: If everyone—including Jesus—would have helped out in the kitchen, both Mary and Martha could have sat and listened to what Jesus had to say. Still, no matter how much we might like to rewrite the story, for 2,000 years Martha has cooked and served while her sister sits at Jesus' feet. What can we learn from this maddening story? How about acceptance? Of tension. Of the unsolvable. Of all that is unresolved in our lives. It's worth contemplating.

Galatians 1:13-24; Luke 10:38-42 (462). *"A woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak."*

Wednesday, Oct 07, 2026

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us

The Rosary has been a favored Catholic form of prayer for centuries. It invites us to pray a set order of Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory Be's along a string of beads while meditating on gospel stories from Mary's and Jesus' lives. This spiritual practice has helped generations of Catholics ask for Mary's intercession

and God's direction. In October 1571, Catholic soldiers prayed the Rosary to prepare for battle with Turkish soldiers in the Gulf of Corinth. When they won that battle, Pope Pius V claimed that October 7 would be known as the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. Two years later, his successor, Gregory XIII, changed the name to the Our Lady of the Rosary. As our world faces many challenges, we continue to turn to prayer and ask for Mary's intercession as we seek God's guidance.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Luke 11:1-4 (463). *"Jesus was praying in a certain place."*

Thursday, Oct 08, 2026

Keep your mind and heart open

In biblical times, hospitality was not so much a question of courtesy or manners but of moral obligation. The harsh, nomadic conditions of desert life meant that welcoming the traveler was often a matter of survival. Not only friends were to be welcomed but strangers as well, because, for the Israelites, they, too, had once been "strangers in a strange land." In our age of proliferating gated communities, alarm systems, checkpoints, and border walls, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that the door to our heart must always remain open to weary travelers and strangers we meet on life's journey.

Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13 (464). *"Knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Friday, Oct 09, 2026

What it takes to be Christian

So, which comes first, believing or doing? Over the centuries Christians have argued and fought and divided over this question, slinging theological doctrines and scripture verses at one another like rocks. Didn't Saint Paul say, "We know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ"? But didn't Saint James say, "Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead"? We're only now figuring out that faith and works go hand in hand. Truly good works are grounded in faith, while true faith is expressed in charitable action. You can't have one without the other. What can you do today to strengthen these key ingredients to true discipleship?

Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26 (465). *"The law does not depend on faith; rather, the one who does these things will live by them."*

Saturday, Oct 10, 2026

Who are the blessed?

You'd think Jesus wouldn't have missed an opportunity to accept a compliment about his mother. But instead, he uses the moment when someone calls her blessed for being his mother to make it clear that true blessedness comes from hearing and living according to the word of God, and that blessedness is available to all. Being someone's mother, spouse, child, or friend isn't enough to make us holy; we must each choose to follow Jesus ourselves. Undoubtedly, Mary is blessed because she is the first disciple to hear the word of God and keep it. We, too, will find ourselves blessed when we put our lives at the service of the Lord and faithfully follow his word.

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Galatians 3:22-29; Luke 11:27-28 (466). *"He replied, 'Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.'"*

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



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