Sunday, Nov 01, 2026

Holiness starts here

In *Sister Wendy's Book of Saints*, art historian Sister Wendy Beckett writes about us: "Holiness can so easily appear as something remote from us, to be read about or . . . gazed at, but from afar. Yet to be a saint is a wholly practical and realistic growth into our own truth. It is what we are all meant to become, it is our deepest fulfillment, our own personal realization of what we have been potentially from birth. There is no play about sanctity. It starts from where we are and what we are." Move deeper into the saint you were born to be.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a (667). *"They will be called children of God."*

Monday, Nov 02, 2026

An end and a beginning

A few years ago, a church document had this to say about death: "Death, while starkly real and total, is the vehicle of that final offering of self which calls for the supreme act of faith in the Lord of Life." Yes, death is final; we will never know the dead in the way we knew them on Earth, and that is sad. Death also challenges us. Do we really believe it is not the end, a terrifying abyss? Or do we see it as rebirth to new life and entrance into the peace of spirit that awaits resurrection? On this day, pray for those who have died. Pray also for the faith to see in death the final passage into full union with Christ.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11; John 6:37-40 (668). *"If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."*

Tuesday, Nov 03, 2026

No excuses, please

Jesus tells the parable about the wealthy man who invites people to a great dinner, but the people reply with pathetic excuses that they had better things to do. Because we see the big picture, we know they are missing the boat—and the Kingdom. The same big-picture perspective applies when it comes to voting. Many people will have ready excuses for not voting, but those blessed with the long view of history know the negative consequences of a disengaged electorate. Our freedom is precious, but it can slip away if we don't guard it carefully. One of the first lines of defense is our vote. Though we are citizens of heaven, until we are welcomed there, we are called to play our part in working for peace and justice here on Earth. That includes participating in our civic life and thoughtfully choosing leaders who will serve the common good with honesty and integrity.

ELECTION DAY

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 14:15-24 (486). *"'Come, everything is now ready.' But one by one, they all began to excuse themselves."*

Wednesday, Nov 04, 2026

Best-laid plans

We've all had the experience of starting a project with great enthusiasm only to abandon it because we didn't think ahead about how much time or money it would cost to complete. Jesus gives us fair warning about the need to know what we're getting ourselves into as his disciples: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first estimate the cost?" (Luke 14:28). Still, even with all the planning in the world, we can never really know for sure what our discipleship is going to require of us. We can only be prepared to be surprised.

Philippians 2:12-18; Luke 14:25-33 (487). *"'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'"*

Thursday, Nov 05, 2026

Join the search

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone . . . ?" wrote singer/songwriter Joni Mitchell. Anyone who has lost their way in life, even for a short while, can relate. Scripture speaks of the rejoicing that goes on in heaven when such a life is turned around, when a lost soul is found. The world is filled with lost souls; what is needed is a larger supply of those willing to join the search party for the lost sheep or sweep for the lost coin. Are you ready to roll up your sleeves and join the effort? Someone out there will be most grateful.

Philippians 3:3-8a; Luke 15:1-10 (488). *"'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'"*

Friday, Nov 06, 2026

Master the art of making lemonade

In the short story "Greville Fane," author Henry James notes of his fictional character, the popular writer Mrs. Stormer, that "she had an unequalled gift, especially pen in hand, of squeezing big mistakes into small opportunities." Although Mrs. Stormer's story was fictional, we know all too well about making big mistakes in the nonfiction of our own lives. We can't avoid all mistakes, but we can learn from them and make amends for any harm caused. Like Mrs. Stormer, we can become gifted in our ability to squeeze big mistakes into small opportunities, the proverbial making lemonade out lemons. That takes practice and a willingness to admit both that we've fallen short and that we have the capacity to grow. What small opportunity might be waiting around the corner for you?

Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 16:1-8 (489). *"And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently."*

Saturday, Nov 07, 2026

Whose commands do you follow?

It may be that in the gospels money is often connected to evil because of the ease with which people can accumulate and wield wealth at the expense of others. Yet material wealth can be put to good or bad ends. At one level how much or little you have is a matter of great importance: "I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty," Saint Paul tells the Philippians. At a deeper level, however, lies the question of how you value money. Does it control you? Do you make decisions based on how they will affect your bottom line? Or is God your master with your decisions guided by love and concern for establishing his reign on Earth?

Philippians 4:10-19; Luke 16:9-15 (490). *"You cannot serve God and mammon."*

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