Sunday, Nov 08, 2026

Open the door to virtue

Some of us can still recite the four Cardinal Virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. They're good not just to recite but also to practice. Virtues are good habits; i.e., things we *don't* have to surrender for Lent. *Cardinal*, meanwhile, means "hinge." Put together, the four hinge virtues swing open the door to a life well lived. Prudence is called the pilot of the virtues because it enables us to discern the good and how best to accomplish it. When a decision is important, reflect on it through the lens of scripture. How is God inviting you to proceed?

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13 (154). *"Wisdom ... is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her."*

Monday, Nov 09, 2026

Inside sacred spaces

The Lateran Basilica was the first building dedicated as a church for the purpose of celebrating the sacraments. It is the mother of all churches, including our own parish churches where we are baptized, confirmed, married, and buried; where we pray, learn, grow, and are fed with the Body and Blood of Christ. Our churches are sacred places. Yet within each of us is a place more sacred still. We are like little churches where God is present and the word of God is spoken in silence. Take some quiet time today to be still and know all that is good and holy and true within you.

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671). *"But he was speaking about the temple of his Body."*

Tuesday, Nov 10, 2026

The secret to greatness

What makes a pope "great"? Only three were so defined (Leo I, Gregory I, and Nicholas I). And only time will tell whether Pope Saint John Paul II will be another. We also have saints like Albert the Great, as well as Gertrude the Great—a rare woman so described. It's not an official title, more an honorific by those who admire the wide-sweeping influence of these faith-filled leaders on the universal church during their lifetimes and beyond. Yet greatness is within reach of all of us. As Saint Leo says, "No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross." Claim your share in greatness by living with love.

MEMORIAL OF LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10 (492). *"The grace of God has appeared, saving all."*

Wednesday, Nov 11, 2026

Commit to a global peace plan

Veterans Day has its origins in the armistice that ended the fighting of World War I—a moment when America and the world turned from the violence of war toward a period of peace. By commemorating this day, we recognize the sacrifices of those who have served and the importance of conversion away from violence. On this day, we also honor Martin of Tours, a decorated Roman soldier whose conversion to Christianity led him to renounce a life of warfare. He, instead, turned to the peace of Jesus Christ, declaring: "With the sign of the Cross, I shall more certainly break through the ranks of the enemy than if armed with shield and sword." Look to this day as one to begin your personal turn toward peace and away from conflict and commit to promoting the peace of Christ to everyone, everywhere.

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP; VETERANS DAY

Titus 3:1-7; Luke 17:11-19 (493). *"[Christians] are to slander no one, to be peaceable, considerate, exercising all graciousness toward everyone."*

Thursday, Nov 12, 2026

Strength in unity

When people use the word *Catholic*, just about everyone thinks Roman Catholic. But there are other kinds of Catholics, too, like some churches found in Eastern Europe, who are in communion with the Roman Catholic Church but who celebrate liturgy much like the Eastern Orthodox Church. Way back in the 15th and 16th centuries Saint Josaphat worked to bring the Eastern and Western churches closer together, and for his efforts was killed in 1623. Of this unity he said to the people of Vitebsk, in present-day Belarus, where he was bishop: "I am here among you as a shepherd, and you should know that I would be happy to give my life for you. I am ready to die for the union of the church." In memory of Josaphat pray for the unity of Christians today.

MEMORIAL OF JOSAPHAT, BISHOP, MARTYR

Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25 (494). *"Behold, the Kingdom of God is among you."*

Friday, Nov 13, 2026

Teaching and learning require a whole lot of love

Reading, writing, and 'rithmetic are important skills to master. But even in the late 1800s, Mother Cabrini insisted that children needed more than these fundamentals to thrive. In her schools she stressed the need for music, drama, art, and physical education as well, calling it a God-centered approach rooted in love of the whole person. By creating an environment of warm relationships, "education becomes an act of love," she instructed the sisters of the religious order she founded, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We learn best from those who love us.

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

2 John 4-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495). *"For this is love, that we walk according to his commandments."*

Saturday, Nov 14, 2026

Do justice to others

Justice is a good thing, right? But what exactly is it? Treating everyone the same? Being fair? According to some philosophers, justice is giving each person their due—what they deserve and have a right to as a human being. Christians take justice a step further. As the United States bishops wrote in the 1986 letter *Economic Justice for All*, "The quest for justice arises from loving gratitude for the saving acts of God and manifests itself in the wholehearted love of God and neighbor." Christians do justice not only to treat people well but also because the only true response to God's love is to love back. How can you bring a little more love and justice into the world today?

3 John 5-8; Luke 18:1-8 (496). *"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"*

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